

Snow, shovel, repeat: East Coast digs out again

A flag pokes above the snow around mounds of covered grave markers in Veterans Memorial Field in East Hartford, Conn., after another winter storm, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011

(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)
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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, January 28, 2011

Police: U.S. official kills 2 gunmen in Pakistan

BABAR DOGAR

Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A U.S. consular employee shot and killed two gunmen as they approached his vehicle in a congested street in Pakistan on Thursday, police said. A pedestrian was also killed by a speeding American car trying to help, an officer said. The U.S. State Department confirmed that an American employee was involved in the incident in Lahore, but could not provide details. Police officer Umar Saeed said the men were suspected robbers, but provided no evidence to back up the statement. He said the American, who was not identified, shot at the men in self-defense.

Western diplomats travel with armed guards in many parts of Pakistan because of the risk of militant attack. Lahore has seen frequent terrorist bombings and shootings over the last two years, though the city's small expatriate population has not been directly targeted.

Lahore police chief Aslam Tareen said the American was being questioned by the police and may be charged with both murder and illegally carrying a weapon: a Beretta pistol. The American shot both men after they pointed guns at him at an intersection, Tareen said.

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25 YEARS

NASA honors astronauts lost from Apollo, shuttles

TOP: In this Jan. 28, 1986 file photo, the space shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after lifting off from Kennedy Space Center. A whole generation — including McAuliffe's own students — has grown up since McAuliffe and six other astronauts perished on live TV on Jan. 28, 1986, a quarter century ago on Friday, Jan. 28, 2011. Now the former schoolchildren who loved her are making sure that people who weren't even born then know about McAuliffe and her dream of going into space.

RIGHT - 1986 file photo provided by NASA shows



the crew of the space shuttle Challenger. From left are Ellison Onizuka, Mike Smith, Christa McAuliffe, Dick Scobee, Greg Jarvis, Ron McNair and Judith Resnik.

(AP Photo/NASA)
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Social Security posting \$600B deficit over 10 years

See Business Page B8

First lady: Army health initiative may be a model



First lady Michelle Obama sits with soldiers in training, Rudolph Buchanan of Illinois, left, and Kimberley Welsh of Vancouver, Canada, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER,
Associated Press

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — First lady Michelle Obama said Thursday that the military's push to turn recruits into health-conscious warriors could be a model for making people across the U.S. more focused on fitness and nutrition.

(AP Photo/Virginia Postic)

Obama, who has made battling childhood obesity one of her signature causes as first lady, visited the Army's largest training post at Fort Jackson outside Columbia to see what the Army has done, from more rigorous training drills to fat-free milk in its mess halls. She told Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, who has worked to

overhaul both the soldiers' diets and exercise programs, that she was fascinated by the project. A lack of fitness is "not just a health issue but a national security issue," she said, and the military's health initiatives could be a model for youngsters elsewhere.

"A lot of young people around the country could use the same kind of support," she said.

Hertling gave the first lady a military-style briefing, accompanied by colorful slides beamed on three large screens hung on the walls, that detailed how the nation's obesity problems create problems for the Army.

Kids are spending too much time in front of TV and computer screens, not getting enough exercise and drinking too many sugary soft drinks, Hertling said. He said that makes their bones too fragile for military lifestyles.

New soldiers are given exercises for core body

strength and stamina. Obama got to see the green salads, fruit and nuts offered in one of the chow lines at the post and chatted with drill sergeants about the challenges of getting recruits into shape.

The first lady sat with a half-dozen senior trainers, asking them how they dealt with a generation more adept at video games than sports or playground games.

"How are the soldiers reacting to this new training? I'm a mother, and it's all about getting the kids to go outside," she told Staff. Sgt. Brian Evans, of East St. Louis, Ill.

"It takes a while before they figure it out, that this food, this exercise, actually works," responded Evans, a 14-year Army veteran who said he'd been deployed seven times to Iraq and four to Afghanistan with Special Operations units. "Hopefully they will take that and adapt it to their lifestyle, so it branches off back to their

families."

Obama echoed that message in her address later in the day to the 1,100 soldiers graduating after 10 weeks of basic training and recognized their effort to choose healthier foods.

"I know these past 10 weeks haven't been easy," she told the soldiers. "But the truth is, you never gave up, you never gave in, you pushed yourself to your limits and beyond."

To wild cheers, Obama praised the families attending for letting their young men and women serve their country despite the risks.

"We want you to know how proud we are of all that you have achieved. We are grateful to you all," she said.

Fort Jackson's commander, Maj. Gen. James Milano, said the first lady's visit was a big boost for military families, particularly those who have endured years of deployments and separations. □



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Snow, shovel, repeat: East Coast digs out again

By DEEPTI HAJELA
JESSICA GRESKO,
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Enough already.

People across the Northeast wearily shoveled their sidewalks and dug out their cars — again — after getting clobbered by the latest in a seemingly never-ending string of snowstorms, this one an overachieving mess that packed more punch than anyone expected.

“I’ve lived in New York 70 years, and this year is the worst I remember,” said Lenny Eitelberg, 77. “It’s the continuity of it. It just keeps coming. Every week there’s something new to be worried about. It’s almost become comical.”

In the Washington area, up to 7 inches of snow renewed memories of last year’s “snowpocalypse” and created chaos when it hit the nation’s capital at the height of the evening rush hour Wednesday, forcing commuters into treacherous, eight-hour drives home. Even the president got caught in traffic.

New Yorkers, keeping close watch on the cleanup after a post-Christmas blizzard paralyzed the city for days, had it a little easier this time. The heaviest snow arrived overnight, when there weren’t many cars and buses around to get stuck.

The forecast had called for up to a foot of snow, but the storm brought far more than that. New York got 19 inches, Philadelphia 17. Boston got about a foot, as expected. Many schools closed for a second day Thursday. Airports ground to a halt, and nearly a half-million people lost power at some point.

Virginia Sforza, 61, was indignant as she shoveled her sidewalk in Pelham, outside New York City.

“My biggest fear is if it continues like this all winter, we won’t have a place to put it and we’ll never get our cars out and we won’t even be able to go to the stores,” she said. “We had a year like this back in the ‘90s, but I was a lot younger. The prospect of this continuing is disgusting.”

Washington-area residents, who had largely been spared heavy snow this winter after getting buried by a series of storms last year, lamented this year’s encore. Around 300,000 people lost power, and motorists abandoned cars by the hundreds when pressing on proved fruitless.

In Maryland, jackknifed tractor-trailers and other stuck vehicles blocked roads and impeded snowplows.

“That’s the nightmarish situation that we’ve been dealing with as quickly as we can,” Gov. Martin O’Malley said.

Logan Nielson, 31, who works in advertising in San Francisco, described a harrowing 60-mile drive from Dulles Airport in northern Virginia to his hotel in Baltimore. What should have been no more than a two-hour trip became a nine-hour ordeal.

“It was a nightmare. ... We would sit there for 30-minute periods, not moving,” he said. “You don’t know: ‘Am I stuck here for three hours? Am I stuck here till tomorrow?’”

After arriving Wednesday night in Washington from Manitowoc, Wis., President Barack Obama couldn’t fly on the helicopter that normally takes him to the White House from a nearby military base. Instead, a motorcade had to snake through the crippled rush-hour traffic.

The federal government let 300,000 Washington-area employees go home two hours early on Wednesday, sending them straight into the teeth of the late-afternoon storm. Many people took more than eight hours to get home.

The men’s basketball team from Maryland’s Towson University got stuck in traffic just a few miles from its game at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. The team eventually checked into hotel rooms in nearby Manassas around 1 a.m. — six hours after the scheduled tipoff. The game was rescheduled for Thursday.

Two freshmen recruited from Florida marveled at the scene, never having seen a snowstorm cripple an entire region.

“I couldn’t believe it. People were getting out of their cars” in the middle of the Capital Beltway “and stopping to clear the snow off their windows,” said guard Dre Conner, a native of Lauderdale Lakes, Fla.

Even old hands marveled at the continuing power of this winter, whose endless snowstorms are being helped along by a cold-air phenomenon off the coast known as the North Atlantic Oscillation.

After digging out his driveway for the “umpteenth time” and knocking some large chunks of ice off his car, Joel Davis stood outside his home in Toms River, N.J., and wondered when he would ever see his lawn again.

“I like the snow and I expect to get some living here, but this is nuts,” he said. “I can’t remember the last time everything wasn’t snow-covered. We didn’t get a white Christmas, but it seems that it’s been white ever since.”

New York City typically gets 21 inches of snow a winter. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the latest storm makes this January the snowiest since the city started keeping records, breaking the mark of 27.4 inches set in 1925. The New York area has been hit with snow eight times since mid-December.

The city, slammed for its slow response to a big storm in late December, handled this one better. It closed schools and some government offices. Federal courts in Manhattan and the United Nations shut down as well. The Statue of Liberty closed for snow removal.

Bloomberg said the city benefited both from lessons learned, as well from the storm’s timing. “This time people were already home by the time the snow really got bad,” he said.

Still, the city wasn’t hassle-free. Dozens of passengers spent the hours from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. huddled in subway cars after their train got stuck at a Brooklyn station because of malfunctioning signals.

The airport serving Hartford, Conn., got a foot of snow,



A flag pokes above the snow around mounds of covered grave markers in Veterans Memorial Field in East Hartford, Conn., after another winter storm, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011

(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

bringing the total for the month so far to 54.9 inches and breaking the all-time monthly record of 45.3 inches, set in December 1945.

In Massachusetts, travel was made trickier by high

winds. Gusts of 46 mph were reported in Hyannis, 45 mph in Rockport and 49 mph on Nantucket early Thursday. In Lynn, Mass., heavy snow collapsed a garage roof and briefly trapped two men. □

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Oklahoma town gets demolished over lead contamination



KANSAS CITY, Missouri – Most of the residents left, the school closed, the city government disbanded and starting this week, nearly every commercial building in Picher, Oklahoma, will be demolished.

It makes for a kind of lonely

feeling for the owner of the last-remaining open business in Picher, which has been vacated over the years because of lead contamination.

“It’s not time for me to leave yet,” said Gary Linderman, owner of Old Miner’s Pharmacy in what is left of

central Picher, located in the northeast corner of the state. “I have an obligation to people. We are all creatures of habit and closing might throw them off.”

In addition to providing prescriptions, the pharmacy is the only place left in town to buy snack food, beverages, over-the-counter medicine and other necessities.

Linderman declined a buyout from the federal government, which declared Picher a Superfund site in 1981 and has bought out about 900 homeowners and businesses. Crews demolished a funeral home, restaurant, thrift shop, apartment building and other structures this week, with more to come.

Besides lead contamination, Picher has suffered in recent years from sinkholes that

threaten to swallow the community into old mines below. Three years ago, a tornado destroyed about 150 homes, chasing more people away.

Picher’s population has shrunk from 1,640 in 2000 to only a handful of residents today. The school district and city government dissolved in 2009 and the post office closed. The town had more than 14,000 residents in the 1920s.

Because of historic significance, a church, mining museum, auction house and a building where mining equipment was sold will remain standing, though they are abandoned. Linderman’s building will be surrounded by vacant lots in what used to be downtown, but he doesn’t seem to mind.

“I’m a farm boy,” he said. “I’m used to the wide open spaces.” □

Suspicious Dallas FedEx package contained papers



DALLAS – A suspicious FedEx package that prompted the evacuation of a downtown Dallas office tower on Thursday contained papers, and police gave the all clear.

Local police said the 33-story office tower located at One Main Place in downtown Dallas was briefly evacuated after the package was found in the basement.

An explosives ordinance team was brought in but the package contained only papers, the police said. It was not clear what was suspicious that raised the alarm in the first place.

The incident came a day after two suspicious packages were removed from Republican Senator John Cornyn’s Dallas-area office. A bomb squad determined they were not a threat. □



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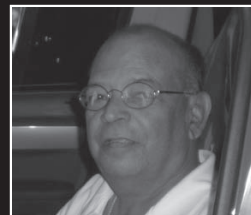
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Arizona law targets "birthright" citizenship



PHOENIX — Arizona Republicans are to introduce legislation on Thursday seeking to challenge the right to U.S. citizenship for the children of legal and illegal immigrants born in the state.

State Rep. John Kavanagh said Republicans would introduce two bills in the Arizona Legislature seeking to provoke a legal review of the 14th amendment to the Constitution, which anchors citizenship rights for the children of immigrants. The 14th Amendment guarantees citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof." It was adopted in 1868 after the U.S. Civil War to ensure citizenship for former African-

American slaves.

The immediate aim of the legislation "is to trigger ... a Supreme Court review of the phrase 'subject to the jurisdiction thereof' in the 14th amendment," Kavanagh told Reuters in a telephone interview.

It ultimately seeks "to deny citizenship to any child born of parents who are not citizens of the United States, be they illegal aliens, or foreigners on business or for tourist purposes," he added.

The proposals are to be introduced separately in the state House of Representatives and Senate, where Republicans have a majority.

Kavanagh said the legislation would likely come to a vote in

several weeks, after legislators vote on the cash-strapped border state's budget.

The move by Arizona Republicans is an opening salvo in a coordinated battle announced by legislators in several states in recent weeks that seeks to deny birthright citizenship to children of illegal immigrants.

It follows the desert state's tough immigration crackdown last year that required police to quiz those they suspected were in the country illegally about their immigration status.

Key parts of the state law were blocked by a federal judge before they came into effect.

Arizona has appealed the ruling and is fighting several other civil suits lodged by plaintiffs including Hispanic and civil rights' groups.

On Thursday, state Democrats slammed their Republican colleagues' latest proposal as a waste of "taxpayers' time and money" that would tie the state up in further costly litigation.

"Instead of focusing on jobs, the economy and a strong future for Arizona, (the backers of the law) want to get Arizona involved in another losing lawsuit," state Sen. Kyrsten Sinema said in a statement. □



Man helps push cop car out of snow; cop arrests man

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Police were grateful when Michael Slaughter helped push their squad car from a snow bank. Too bad they had to turn around and arrest him.

Slaughter was in jail on Thursday in lieu of bond on a bad check charge. A deputy sheriff and state trooper had been looking for Slaughter, 30, to serve an arrest warrant on the charge in Wheeling, Mo. last Friday when they got stuck in the snow, and Slaughter happened along.

After the car was freed from the snow, the deputy "kindly thanked the man for his gracious assistance" but realized Slaughter was the man he was looking for, said Livingston County Sheriff Steve Cox in a statement Wednesday.

The deputy apologized for the way they met, but took Slaughter into custody, Cox said. □

Dallas "Crime Stopper" cop indicted for crimes herself



DALLAS — The former head of a Texas "Crime Stoppers" tip line to stop crime has been indicted for crimes of her own, authorities said on Thursday.

Dallas Police Department Senior Corporal Theadora Ross and co-defendant Malva R. Delley were indicted for pilfering at least \$250,000 from the "Crime Stoppers" program that Ross headed, according to a statement from U.S. Attorney James Jacks on Thursday.

"Crime Stoppers" is a national program that offers cash to anonymous callers who provide information that leads to arrests or indictments.

Ross is accused of authorizing payment for bogus tip information and coordinating with Delley to collect the payments, which the two later shared. □

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All levels can play from beginner to Pro!

It's going to be an active Beach Tennis event this Sunday at Eagle beach!!

Beach Tennis event Program: 9-11 am, Youth tournament (just show up).

Continued on Page A11

ATA SUPPORTS AHATA



At Caribbean Marketplace 2011 in Jamaica

Pictured from left to right: Mario Arends, Manager Advertising and Branding, Adwina Arends, Manager Industry Partnership Relations for North America and AHATA President and CEO James Hepple.

~ Photo by Julia Renfro
Read Next Page

Stars fall from the sky with Angelo on Fridays

ORANJESTAD - The fantastic tunes from Angelo koolman's guitar fill the night air at CILO on Friday. 'Thank God it's Friday' gets a whole new meaning when listening to superb Angelo Koolman's songs. Local vocalist/guitarist Angelo Koolman sings the stars from the sky on Friday evenings on the outside terrace. You will know exactly why his name is Angelo after you hear him sing his ballads and hits! No wonder that this singer has gotten rave reviews after his performances on the top stages on the island.

Come to CILO and create the sweetest memories of special moments; come early and stay late with Angelo. He will be performing from 6 pm until 10 pm. □



At Caribbean Marketplace 2011 in Jamaica

AHATA reports strong support for new ATA



ORANJESTAD - Last week AHATA President and CEO James Hepple attended the prestigious Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Marketplace in Montego Bay, Jamaica where he met with more than 50 of Aruba's

key travel trade partners from around the world. Marketplace is generally accepted as the leading venue for meeting existing partners and new sources of business especially from North America and Europe.

The show attracted more than 1,300 delegates in total and 120 buyer companies.

During the two days of intensive meetings Mr. Hepple, together with Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) management, informed Aruba's partners of the new plans for the ATA which will shortly go into effect. The partners were uniformly excited and pleased by the new developments and expressed their strong support for this new initiative. Many indicated that they thought this would make Aruba even more competitive and looked forward to working even more closely with the new ATA.

AHATA strongly supports



the creation of the new Aruba Tourism Authority and is looking forward to its implementation in the very near future. "It is very clear that Aruba is heading in the right direction with this bold, new initiative" Hepple said after returning to Aruba.

"This initiative has AHATA's full support and it is exciting to see how well it has been received by our travel industry partners".

AHATA spent much of 2010 negotiating with the Minister of Tourism to put the new ATA in place and fully supports the Minister in his efforts to pass the enabling legislation.

Aruba was well represented

at the event with six hotels having individual booths and others being represented through their corporate sales representatives. De Palm Tours was also present.

AHATA worked jointly with the Aruba Tourism Authority who was represented by Mario Arends, Manager Advertising and Branding and Adwina Arends, Manager Industry Partnership Relations for North America.

The trade partners were generally positive about the first months of 2011 with many indicating overall growth of 10% - 15% in room nights compared to the same time last year. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro

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A true Angel of Aruba

Julien Collot moves to his playground in the sky

Julien Collot, "the most amazing boy in the world," a lifelong resident of Chatham NJ, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2011, surrounded by his family at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan, NY. He was 8 years old. Julien was the beloved son of Jacqueline and Thierry Collot, and the precious grandson of Patricia and James Cannon and Serafine and Bernard Collot.

If measured in years, his life was too short, yet he has touched, inspired and influenced more people than most could hope for during a full life span.

Julien was courageous, strong, loving, and possessed wisdom far beyond his years.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Julien Collot Foundation, www.thejuliencollotfoundation.org, which was founded in 2007 in honor of "Ju Ju" and is dedicated to funding research and trials for pediatric cancers and to assist affected families in need.

Julien loved vacationing in Aruba with the Cannon & Collot families, which are many time repeat guests of the island and own timeshare vacation weeks at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club and at Paradise Beach Villas.

The funeral service was held at St. Teresa of Avila Roman Catholic Church on January 26th, 2011. He was laid to rest in Dover, NJ. For Memorials please go to The Julien Collot Foundation, www.thejuliencollotfoundation.org or P.O. Box 207, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922



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ORANJESTAD - What a surprise!!! This old warehouse transformed into a typical Spanish or Italian town's square, with its gurgling fountain, French lamp-post and lime-washed walls features an open Pizza

Atelier, under a small country hut, covered with old hand-made roof tiles. Opened downtown Oranjestad two years ago, the restaurant dishes reflect this inter-cultural relationship of Spanish, French and

Italian cuisine, all served in a friendly, casual setting.

On the menu, a wide variety of Spanish Tapas, appetizers starting at \$2.95, and plentiful Paellas, made daily, filled with mussels, clams, shrimp, pork loin and chicken. The menu also boasts famous Pata Negra ham, Chorizo, and other specialty dry-cured pork sausage.

Naturally, the restaurant's whole Grilled Red Snapper, fresh fish fillets and beef tenderloins are all cooked "A la Plancha," with just a sprinkle of olive oil, representing a healthy Mediterranean lifestyle. Patrons also favor the restaurant irresistible thin-crust pizza, baked according to a secret family recipe, topped with Casa Tua infused spicy olive oil, a signature condiment for Casa Tua restaurants on the Island.

To complete this Spanish experience and make it truly unforgettable, Angela Croes, the local Song-Diva,



a native of Spain, a golden recording artist, will perform all Wednesdays and Fridays from 8pm with her daughter and Spanish-Aruban guitar talents.

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At Bavaria Restaurant on Palm Beach

Kurt Schmoelz celebrates 70th birthday on Aruba



PALM BEACH – German-born Distinguished Guest of Aruba, Kurt Schmoelz celebrated his 70th birthday at Bavaria Restaurant with his wife Norma, son Kurt Jr. together with his wife Joelle and grandchildren Hannah and

Marcus. Although Kurt and company are visiting Aruba from Montreal, Canada, Kurt is originally from Germany where he was a gun maker. Kurt Sr. was joined at the restaurant by many friends from Canada, the USA and Aruba.



Happy Birthday was sung in English, German, Dutch and a special tribute to Kurt in French sung by a close friend from Montreal.

Bavaria Restaurant is in Palm Beach, next to Wendy's and Sawasdee, the restaurant spe-



cializes in German Food and according to Kurt, it is the best restaurant on the island.

The birthday group of 3 dozen or so, started the evening with 34 ounce mugs of beer, huge authentic warm pretzels, continuing with Bratwurst, Bavaria Weisswurst, Schweinelendchen, Rinderroulade, Schnitzel, Jager-

schnitzel, Holzfallerschnitzel, Krustchen and the famous Potato Pancakes followed by Birthday cake.

A special Pabien to our soon-to-be Ambassador of Goodwill to the island of Aruba as Kurt and his wife Norma will celebrate 20 consecutive years of visiting Aruba. □

~Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Alno Beach Tennis event this coming Sunday



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Continued from Page A7
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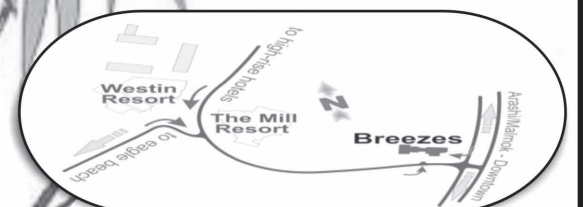
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HUMAN HINTS

How To Deal With Intense Emotion 2

I can't wait to come out the other side of my present personal trauma. In order to speed up the process, I am accepting the waves of emotion as they come, feeling them fully to the point of indulging myself in them, then allowing them to fade away. When they return, I let them come and I do it again.

It's easy to lose yourself in intense emotion. The challenge is to not let it swallow you. Indulge yourself in misery, then summon the coherence and courage to extricate your self from the deepest, darkest depths of your Soul. No one can do it for you, and this moment is the difference between courage and cowardice.

I know the powerful pain of intense emotion. Accepting it helps us learn what we need to learn. Both indulgence and distraction can be healthy, but only in moderation. If we overindulge, we get lost. If we distract the problem away, we prolong and postpone the pain.

Remember that emotional pain won't last for ever. It will subside in time. Remember that there will come a future in which you don't feel the pain this intensely. Very intense trauma or loss might last for ever, but it will not always be as acute or debilitating as when it first strikes. You will come out the other side of your pain with more confidence and personal power. In the meantime, feel it and let it go.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Gingrich's stake on Obama's vision

When I first heard that President Obama was using "winning the future" as the theme of his state of the union I thought it was ironically funny.

I wrote a book, "Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America" in 2005. I used the title "Winning the Future" to make the case that the future was not automatically ours, that we Americans were not winning the future with our current policies and that we would have to make real changes to win. My book was also a warning to Republicans. It was a serious critique of the Republican failure to thoroughly rethink and replace failing government policies and institutions. I was suggesting the Republican Congress, after a decade of power, and the Republican administration were not being bold enough, creative enough or conservative enough. They didn't listen and suffered the consequences in the 2006 and 2008 elections.

I looked forward to the State of the Union address to see how President Obama would build on this theme of winning. Winning implies a real contest. Winning implies losing is possible.

As you can imagine my conservative vision of winning the future by replacing failing, left wing bureaucracies with conservative, free market alternatives was radically different than President Obama's.

After telling us government is failing (with a cute story about three different departments dealing with salmon) he then proposed more power and more money for the very institutions he has just suggested were ineffective and inefficient.

However, what was most depressing about President Obama's State of the Union address was not its big government liberalism, its clever maneuvering to keep all the big government of the last two years, or its failure to admit how much liberalism had failed to create jobs.

What really saddened me about the President's State of the Union address was its shallowness and lack of serious dialogue. For three years we have been in the worst economy since the great depression. Millions of Americans are suffering from unemployment. We just learned that first time applications for unemployment benefits jumped by 51,000 last week. Housing prices are continuing to struggle. What has the president learned from these three years of failure? What should we

change to get back to job creation? Why should we expect more spending by failing bureaucracies (President Obama's version of investment) to work?

The world is becoming more dangerous. The Bush strategies did not stop the dangerous North Korean and Iranian regimes from pursuing nuclear weapons. Hamas, Hezbollah, and al Qaeda are still killing innocents in brutal terrorist attacks. The Obama strategies have been no more successful than the Bush strategies. What has the president learned from the failure of "engagement"?

The United States continues to send \$400 billion plus overseas even though we have huge energy reserves here at home. Instead of proposing immediate steps to use American energy to create American jobs, the president repeated his fantasy of jobs in the future created through bureaucratic spending on technologies that are currently unavailable.

What serious plans does the president have to control spending and balance the budget? Freezing spending at its current unprecedented high levels will barely make a dent in the projected deficit. The deficit is now almost twice as large as the entire government was in 1983 when I proposed a freeze on spending to President Ronald Reagan.

Sadly, there is no Obama plan for winning the future.

There is an Obama plan for protecting big government, for pouring more money into broken bureaucracies, for borrowing several trillion more from the Chinese dictatorship. President Obama is on a path to lose the future while pretending to change things. The Republican House of Representatives should aggressively move forward and propose a scale of change to genuinely win the future.

Let the American people see the contrast and let the American people decide if they want big government, high taxes, economic decay and dangerous cuts in defense.

I believe the American people want to genuinely win the future and will prefer a future of smaller government, more entrepreneurship, more genuine investment within a free market, more replacement of failing policies and institutions and a lot more honesty about the real change we need.

Let the debate begin. □



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Relative: Mexico violence worried slain missionary

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

MONTE ALTO, Texas (AP) — A Texas couple who were attacked at an illegal roadblock in one of Mexico's most violent areas had been delivering babies and doing missionary work in the country for three decades, and they had come to expect such confrontations, the couple's son said Thursday.

Nancy Davis, 59, was shot in the head Wednesday while her husband, Sam, was trying to speed away from suspected drug cartel gunmen who may have wanted to steal their pickup truck, authorities said. Sam Davis frantically raced to the Pharr International Bridge border checkpoint with his wife bleeding beside him, but she was declared dead at a McAllen hospital.

"It would be easier to count the times they weren't chased," the couple's son, Joseph Davis, told The Associated Press outside his family's home the remote South Texas town of Monte Alto.

Sam Davis' mother, Francille Davis, told the AP that her son and daughter-in-law were in Mexico Wednesday to pay pastors in some of the village churches the family had established, but that they had recently put off trips to Mexico because of the spiraling violence.

She said the drug war had prevented Sam from reaching the churches earlier in the month. "Sam had gone in and there were dead bodies all over the place," Francille recalled, explaining that Nancy had stopped making some of those

trips because of the risks.

"But for some reason Nancy went in (on Wednesday) and did not come out" alive, she said.

The Davises were driving along the two-lane road that connects the city of San Fernando with the border city of Reynosa, about 70 miles north, when they came upon the roadblock, an official in Mexico's Tamaulipas state attorney general's office who would not be identified because he is not authorized to discuss the case told the AP. The area where couple was attacked is dominated by the Gulf Cartel, which has been waging a fierce turf war in northeastern Tamaulipas with the Zetas cartel for control of lucrative smuggling routes to the U.S. The area has had 40 violent car thefts in the last two months, the official said. Sam Davis told U.S. investigators that he tried to speed away from the gunmen, and that they gave chase in a pickup truck and opened fire, hitting his wife.

Pharr police said Thursday that the couple's 2008 Chevrolet pickup is the kind of heavy-duty, high-profile truck prized by cartels, and that it's likely the reason the Davises were targeted. Damage to the truck's quarter-paneling suggests the gunmen tried to ram them, Pharr police Chief Ruben Villescas said.

Wednesday's killing echoes the September attack on American tourist David Hartley and his wife on Falcon Lake, on the U.S.-Mexico border. Tiffany Hartley said she and her husband were

Jet-Skiing in Mexican waters when pirates fired on them, striking her husband and forcing her to flee. His body was not recovered.

"I just thank God that he was able to get back across the border with her," Hartley told the AP.

Concerns about the investigation into David Hartley's death led Texas Gov. Rick Perry to call for a stronger response from Mexican authorities. On Thursday, Perry's spokeswoman, Katherine Cesinger, said Nancy Davis' slaying underscores the need for greater border security.

There were conflicting reports about exactly where along the road the attack occurred. Pharr police said it happened near San Fernando, but the Tamaulipas official said it happened about 7 miles south of Reynosa.

Joseph Davis said his parents were well aware of the risks they were taking travelling to Tamaulipas.

Joseph Davis said his mother often text-messed him after crossing the border to let him know they arrived safely.

Tamaulipas is one of three Mexican states that accounted for 50 percent of the country's more than 15,000 murders last year, according to the Mexican government.

The Mexican government in November sent more troops and federal police there in what it called a major operative to control drug violence, but drug gangs still roam freely in caravans of SUVs and trucks, attacking rivals, terrorizing locals and

Gospel Proclaimers Missionary Association, Inc.


Sam & Nancy Davis
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A pray card handed out by Sam and Nancy Davis, missionaries working in Mexico, is shown in Wesfield, Ind., Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011. Nancy Davis, 59, died in a South Texas hospital Wednesday about 90 minutes after her husband drove the couple's truck against traffic across the Pharr International Bridge after the couple were allegedly attacked by gunmen, according to a statement issued by the Pharr Police Department.

Associated Press

in some cases emptying entire towns.

Merton Rundell III, a friend of the Davis' and the director of finance at Union Bible College in Indiana, said the Davises spent 80 to 90 percent of their time in Mexico and had a home in the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon. He said they spent the rest of their time at their home in McAllen or traveling the U.S. raising funds for Gospel Proclaimers Missionary Association, the organization they founded.

"They've been working in Mexico for over 30 years. It was mainly establishing churches — that was their main thrust.

"They loved the work they were doing in spite of the danger," Rundell said.

Rundell described Nancy Davis as "a petite lady with a drive like you wouldn't

believe. She lived life to the fullest. They were both totally given to (their work)."

Joseph Davis said his mother loved music, and could compose songs and lyrics in minutes. But he said she loved the work she did most of all.

"Time after time, what made her the happiest was seeing somebody hit their knees and come up forgiven for whatever they've done — murder, rape, the smallest sin," Joseph Davis said. "She'd come home so happy. She'd say, 'Well, we stole another one from the devil today.'" □



WORLD BRIEFS

Puerto Rico police arrest 99 suspects in drug raid

PONCE, Puerto Rico (AP) — Police in Puerto Rico have arrested 99 suspected drug dealers. Gov. Luis Fortuno said Thursday that police are seeking another 33 suspects across the U.S. Caribbean territory. Most of the arrests occurred in the southern coastal city of Ponce, the island's second-largest city. Police say they targeted 41 drug distribution points.

7 dead in Ivory Coast cholera outbreak

ABIJDAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — The head of UNICEF in Ivory Coast says that a cholera outbreak in a neighborhood of Abidjan killed at least seven people and sickened 35 others. UNICEF country chief Sylvie Dossou says the fatality rate of 20 percent in the Adjame neighborhood is "unacceptably high."

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection that is transmitted through lack of hygiene and dirty water. Although easy to treat, the infection can be extremely virulent, killing victims in less than 6 hours.

It is unclear if the outbreak is linked to Ivory Coast's political troubles. The country was plunged into crisis after a Nov. 28 election. The results showed the sitting president had lost, but he has refused to leave office, setting off a wave of violence.

Second bomb found along busy road in N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Police say they've discovered a second explosive device planted along a busy Belfast road, part of a bomb alert which has forced dozens of families from the area and highlighted the staying power of dissident republican groups in Northern Ireland.

Dissident threats earlier this week eventually led police to an improvised explosive device concealed near a local police station on Belfast's Antrim Road. Police say a second device — which they described as a "component part" of the first — was discovered Thursday.

Tunisian Prime Minister names independents to key gov't posts



This is a Tuesday Jan. 25, 2011 file photo of Tunisian Foreign Minister Kamel Morjane in Tunis. Tunisia's official news agency Thursday Jan. 27, 2011 is reporting that foreign minister Kamel Morjane has resigned.

Associated Press

PAKISTAN

Continued from Front Page

"Diplomatic staff usually enjoy a certain type of immunity, but I am not sure about murder," he said. "We will consult the Foreign Office and legal advisers in this regard."

Police officer Atif Meraj later said that a murder case was officially registered against the American, and another case was registered against two other Americans for killing the pedestrian.

The gunmen approached the American's vehicle on a motorbike, said Saeed, the police officer. The American managed to alert colleagues in a car behind him who hit and killed a passer-by as they rushed to the scene, he said.

Local TV showed footage of what it said was the American's car, which had several bullet holes in the front windshield. It also showed one of the gunmen laying dead next to a motorbike with a pistol on the ground nearby. The other gunman was shown being placed in the back of an ambulance and appeared to be wearing a holster.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley declined to identify the employee involved, but said the individual is still in Pakistan. He said the incident is under investigation.

BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's prime minister appointed independents to three key posts in the country's new interim Cabinet on Thursday, removing ministers from the former ruling party in a major concession to demonstrators.

But Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi, himself a holdover from the former regime of ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, is staying on in the new Cabinet, despite demonstrators' calls for his ouster.

It was not immediately clear if naming independent ministers to the interior, foreign and defense Cabinet posts would succeed in quelling Tunisia's daily street protests demanding the removal of all ministers with ties to the country's former regime.

Ben Ali, who had ruled Tunisia for 23 years, was driven from power by the anti-government protesters on Jan. 14 and fled to Saudi Arabia.

The new interim Cabinet, Tunisia's second in 10 days, is a caretaker government intended to prepare for elections in six to seven months. Ghannouchi said the elections will be organized by an independent national commission and overseen by international observers to ensure the vote is "honest and transparent." He did not offer a date for the ballot.



People look at blood stains at a roadside in Lahore, Pakistan on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

Americans have been targeted in Pakistan before.

In the northwestern city of Peshawar in 2008, gunmen shot and killed an American aid worker as he drove to work. Suspected militants also opened fire on the vehicle of the United States' top diplomat in the city the same year, but she survived the attack.

Street robberies are not uncommon in Pakistan, and foreigners would be perceived as lucrative targets in the poor country.

Lahore is a city of 12 million people in eastern Pakistan not far from the Indian border. The United States has a small diplomatic mission there.

While the facts of the incident are still being established, it may add to anti-American rhetoric in the country.

A few dozen people protested

outside the police station where the American was being held. They burnt tires and one of them held up a sign saying "American dog."

Sections of the Pakistani media are prone to fanning right-wing conspiracy theories that frequently feature armed foreigners roaming the country at will, violating its sovereignty. The United States is pumping millions of dollars in aid to the country, but many people still regard it with suspicion or outright enmity.

"We want to make sure that a tragedy like this does not affect the strategic partnership that we are building with Pakistan and we'll work as hard as we can to explain that to the Pakistani people," said Crowley, the State Department spokesman.



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Mandela, 92, hospitalized for tests in S. Africa

DONNA BRYSON

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Former South African President Nelson Mandela was hospitalized for a second straight day Thursday for what his office described as routine tests but which drew concern over the health of the 92-year-old anti-apartheid icon.

Mandela undergoes regular hospital checkups, but his latest visit starting Wednesday stretched into an unusually long stay. Journalists camped outside the hospital Thursday as Mandela's relatives and friends entered for visits. President Jacob Zuma, attending the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, is being updated on developments by the defense minister, whose department is responsible for current and former presidents' health care, Zuma's office said. The presidency cautioned reporters not to put pressure on Mandela's doctors and to give "a national hero" dignity and respect.

Children at a school next door to Milpark Hospital made cards and posters wishing Mandela well and put them up on the school

grounds Thursday. Head teacher Nicky Humphries said students and teachers prayed for South Africa's most famous and beloved citizen before classes started.

Zuma's office said Mandela "is comfortable and is well looked after by a good team of medical specialists."

Mandela's office has released only a brief statement, saying on Wednesday the hospital visit is for routine tests and that Mandela is in "no danger and is in good spirits." His spokesman did not return calls seeking more information.

The White House said President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama's thoughts are with Mandela.

Mandela was jailed for 27 years for his fight against apartheid. He became South Africa's first black president in 1994 and stepped down after serving one term in 1999. He largely retired from public life in 2004.

The public has seen only glimpses of him recently, such as in November, when his office released photos of a private meeting between Mandela and members of the U.S. and South African soccer teams. The teams



Students from a school adjacent to the hospital where former South African President Nelson Mandela, fondly known as "Madiba", is said to be undergoing routine tests make their way past a giant get well card Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

had just played a match in closing ceremony of the driven in a small golf cart his honor. World Cup in July, waving alongside his wife, Graca He also appeared at the to the crowd as he was Machel. □

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Egypt: Internet down, police counterterror unit up

HAMZA HENDAWI
SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Internet service in Egypt was disrupted and the government deployed an elite special operations force in Cairo on Friday, hours before an anticipated new wave of anti-government protests.

The developments were a sign that President Hosni Mubarak's regime was toughening its crackdown following the biggest protests in years against his nearly 30-year rule.

The counter-terror force, rarely seen on the streets, took up positions in strategic locations, including central Tahrir Square, site of the biggest demonstrations this week.

Facebook and Twitter have helped drive this week's protests. But by Thursday evening, those sites were disrupted, along with cell phone text messaging and BlackBerry Messenger services. Then the Internet went down.

Earlier, the grass-roots movement got a double boost — the return of Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei and the backing of the biggest opposition group, the Muslim



A business selling fire extinguishers seen burning during clashes between protestors and anti-riot policemen in Suez, Egypt, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011. Egyptian activists protested for a third day as social networking sites called for a mass rally in the capital Cairo after Friday prayers, keeping up the momentum of the country's largest anti-government protests in years.

Associated Press

Brotherhood.

After midnight, security forces arrested at least five Brotherhood leaders and five former Members of Parliament, according to the group's lawyer, Abdel-Moneim Abdel-Maksoud, and spokesman, Walid Shalaby. They said security forces had also taken a large number of Brotherhood members in a sweep in Cairo and elsewhere. The real test for the protest movement will be whether Egypt's fragmented opposition can come together,

with Friday's rallies expected to be some of the biggest so far.

Social networking sites were abuzz that the gatherings called after Friday prayers could attract huge numbers of protesters demanding the ouster of Mubarak. Millions gather at mosques across the city on Fridays, giving organizers a vast pool of people to tap into.

The 82-year-old Mubarak has not been seen in public or heard from since the protests began Tuesday with tens of

thousands marching in Cairo and a string of other cities. While he may still have a chance to ride out this latest challenge, his choices are limited, and all are likely to lead to a loosening of his grip on power.

Violence escalated on Thursday at protests outside the capital. In the flashpoint city of Suez, along the strategic Suez Canal, protesters torched a fire station and looted weapons that they then turned on police. The Interior Ministry said in a statement that more than 90 police officers were injured in those clashes.

There were no immediate figures on the number of injured protesters.

In the northern Sinai area of Sheik Zuweid, several hundred Bedouins and police exchanged gunfire, killing a 17-year-old. About 300 protesters surrounded a police station from rooftops of nearby buildings and fired two rocket-propelled grenades at it, damaging the walls.

Video of the shooting of the teenager, Mohamed Attef, was supplied to a local journalist and obtained by AP Television News. Attef crumpled to the ground after being shot on the street. He was alive as fellow

protesters carried him away but later died.

The United States, Mubarak's main Western backer, has been publicly counseling reform and an end to the use of violence against protesters, signs the Egyptian leader may no longer be enjoying Washington's full backing.

In an interview broadcast live on YouTube, President Barack Obama said the anti-government protests filling the streets show the frustrations of Egypt's citizens. "It is very important that people have mechanisms in order to express their grievances," Obama said.

Noting that Mubarak has been "an ally of ours on a lot of critical issues," Obama added: "I've always said to him that making sure that they're moving forward on reform, political reform and economic reform, is absolutely critical to the long-term well-being of Egypt."

"And you can see these pent-up frustrations that are being displayed on the streets," Obama said.

In a move likely to help swell the numbers on the streets, the Muslim Brotherhood ended days of inaction to throw its support behind the demonstrations. □

Li Na aims to be 1st Chinese to win major title

China's Li Na celebrates her match point win over Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during their women's semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

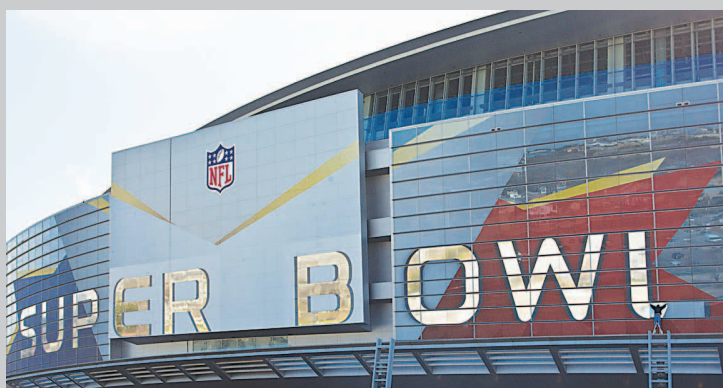
Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, January 28, 2011

NFL expects record crowd for Super Bowl in Texas



A worker puts up a logo outside Cowboys Stadium, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011 in Arlington, Texas, in preparation of NFL football Super Bowl XLIV.

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The NFL is expecting a record crowd for the first Super Bowl at \$1.3 billion Cowboys Stadium.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy said Thursday an estimated total of 105,000 will attend the Feb. 6 game in Arlington, Texas.

McCarthy said about 95,000 fans will be in the seats and suites inside the stadium, along with about 5,000 media members and staff. Approximately 5,000 people also paid \$200 apiece to be in an area outside the stadium watching on big-screen TVs.

The record of 103,985 was set in the 1980 Super Bowl at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., when the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Los Angeles Rams. This time, the Steelers are playing the Green Bay Packers.

A record could exceed the population of Green Bay, which is about 104,000. □

Woods starts year with 69 and trails by 5 strokes

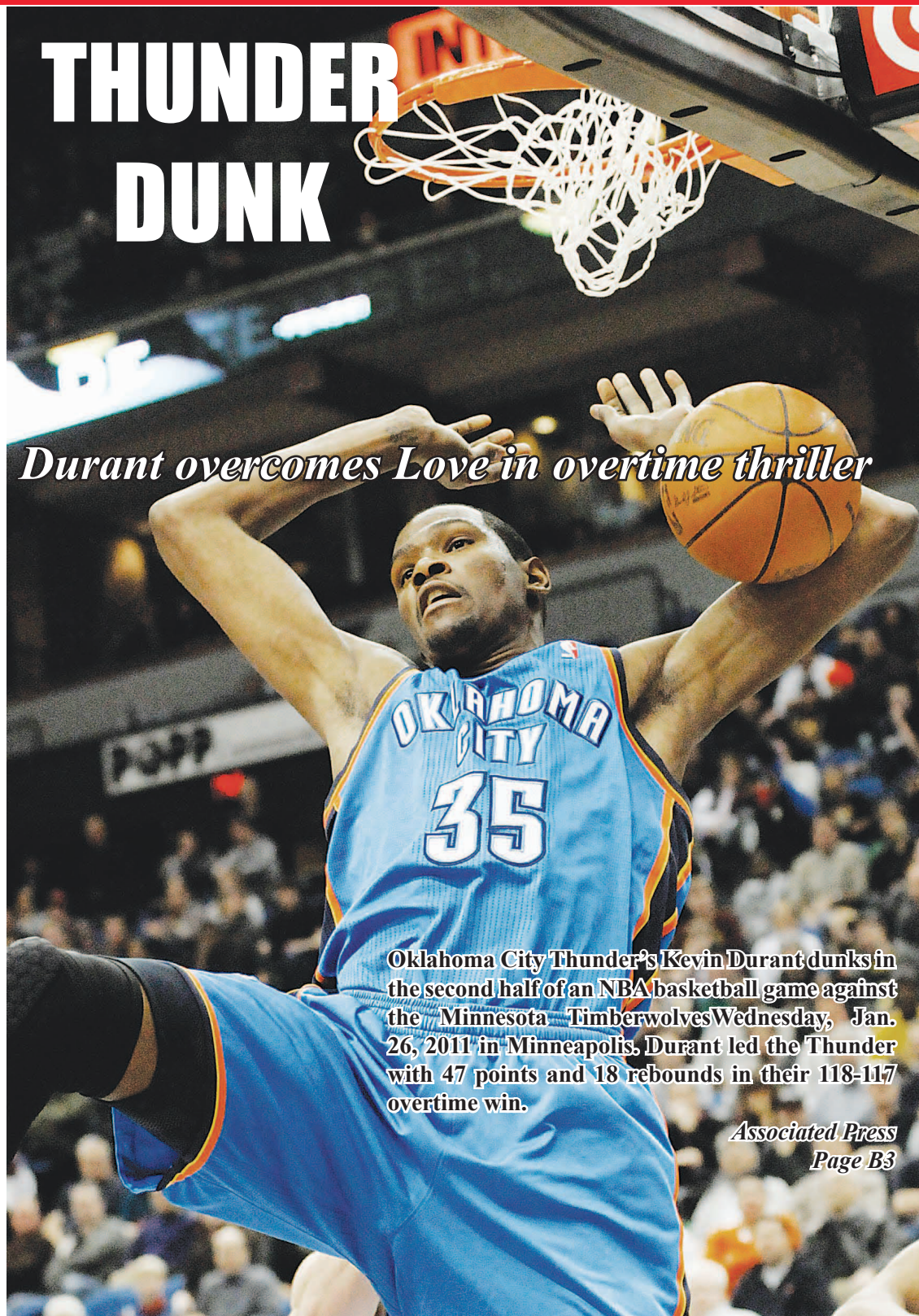


Tiger Woods wipes his brow as he waits his turn to put on the 14th hole of the North Course at Torrey Pines during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament in San Diego, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Associated Press
See Next Page

THUNDER DUNK

Durant overcomes Love in overtime thriller



Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant dunks in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011 in Minneapolis. Durant led the Thunder with 47 points and 18 rebounds in their 118-117 overtime win.

Associated Press
Page B3

IOC to meet with govts, others on March 1

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee will meet with governments and other interested organizations in March to discuss illegal betting in sports.

IOC President Jacques Rogge, speaking

Thursday at a symposium on the subject, said illegal betting is a threat that needs to be met with the same "seriousness and unity" as doping and that the IOC is doing more to combat the problem.

Continued on Page B6

Woods starts year with 69 and trails by 5 strokes



Sunghoon Kang, right, of South Korea, knocks fists with his caddy after finishing his 8-under-par 64 first round at the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament in San Diego, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods opened his season with a bogey-free round of 3-under 69 in the Farmers Insurance Open that left him five shots behind South Korean rookie Sunghoon Kang on Thursday. If the setting was familiar for Woods, so was his middle-of-the-pack position after starting on the North Course. In four of his six wins at this tournaments, he has been at least five shots behind after

the opening round.

"I'm happy with the way I played, absolutely," Woods said. "I could have been a lot better if I took care of the par 5s a little bit more, but obviously, I didn't do that."

Kang, a 24-year-old rookie, finished with back-to-back birdies on the North Course for an 8-under 64, giving him a one-shot lead over fellow rookie Chris Kirk, Alex Prugh and Rickie Fowler.

Phil Mickelson shot 32 on the back nine for a 5-under

67 to match the best score on the tougher South Course, which hosted the 2008 U.S. Open that Woods won in a playoff. Also at 67 on the South was John Daly, whose last win came in 2004 at this tournament. He is the last player to win at Torrey Pines when Woods was in the field. "This place means a lot to me," Daly said. "The top golfers play here every year. That says something."

Woods no longer is No. 1 — he has slipped to No. 3 in the world ranking and can't improve on that this week — but he has not played the public course he has practically owned since that U.S. Open in 2008. He missed the next year because of knee surgery, and last year while in a Mississippi addiction clinic after being caught in extramarital affairs.

"Welcome back to Torrey," was a popular phrase from the gallery throughout his round, in which Woods played solidly except on the greens. He made only two putts longer than 3 feet — a 10-foot par save on No. 8, and a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 sixth that bounced along until

catching the right corner of the cup.

"I didn't leave myself any putts," Woods said. "I kept leaving myself above the hole. And I didn't take advantage of the par 5s."

The North Course is not the pushover it has been in past years because of some new length, and not just in distance. Along with being some 90 yards longer, the rough was allowed to grow and is thicker than the grass found on the South Course.

"I didn't know the North was as long as the South," Ben Curtis said after a 70. He knows better, but it felt that way if tee shots did not stay in the narrow, canted fairways. Woods was in shorter grass on half of his 14 tee shots, although four of those misses came on the par 5s. He couldn't get to the green in two, and didn't make the birdie putts.

Even so, he looked more like the Woods who ended last year with a playoff loss at the Chevron World Challenge, not the guy who played so poorly for so much of the year that he didn't win on the U.S. PGA Tour for the first time in his career.

It felt like a typical season-opener for Woods, including his position on the leaderboard. In his last four trips to this event, he has trailed by seven, six, five and two shots after the opening round and went on to win them all.

Even so, scoring on the

North was lower, and Woods will need to pick up the pace on the South Course. He is playing the first two days with Anthony Kim and Rocco Mediate, whom Woods defeated in that epic U.S. Open playoff at Torrey Pines. Mediate was chattering away, as usual, but there wasn't much conversation about that 19-hole playoff from 2008. "We didn't play that golf course," Woods said.

Kim was among those at 68, a tribute to his great scrambling. He chipped in from 40 feet for par, holed a 30-foot par putt from the fringe and made two other par saves outside 10 feet.

The top of the leaderboard was filled with youth, starting with Kang, who earned his card through Q-school. Fowler was voted the tour rookie of the year in 2010 on a ballot that included Prugh. Kirk finished second on the Nationwide Tour last year, when he hurt his wrist and couldn't play the last two events.

On the South Course, rookies Fabian Gomez of Argentina and Keegan Bradley were among those at 67.

Kang had the recipe on the North Course that Woods couldn't find.

"This course, all the par 5s are reachable, so I really tried to keep to the fairways and it worked really well," Kang said. "And I really had a good chance on the par 5s. That's why I played very well today." □

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NBA Roundup

Durant leads Thunder past T-wolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Durant had career highs of 47 points and 18 rebounds as the Oklahoma City Thunder held off the Minnesota Timberwolves 118-117 in overtime in the NBA on Wednesday.

Kevin Love had 31 points and 21 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who had a chance to win the game in the final 7 seconds. Luke Ridnour rushed a 3-pointer and the Thunder tracked down the loose ball to seal it.

Jeff Green had 19 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who beat Minnesota for the eighth straight time. But it was Durant who carried the load, scoring 16 straight points in the fourth quarter of a thrilling back-and-forth game. Durant's 47 points tied Clippers star Blake Griffin for the highest total in the NBA this season.

Michael Beasley had 30 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for Minnesota.

Bobcats 114, Suns 107

At Phoenix, Stephen Jackson scored 16 of his 23 points in the second half and the Bobcats won for the fourth time in five games.

Gerald Wallace had 16 of his 22 points in the second half for Charlotte, much improved since Paul Silas replaced Larry Brown as coach. After a 94-89 win at Sacramento on Tuesday, the Bobcats are off to a 2-0 start on a six-game road trip.

Steve Nash had 27 points and 15 assists and Vince Carter scored 22 for Phoenix on his 34th birthday, but the Bobcats shot 51 percent to beat the Suns for the fourth time in a row.

The Suns lost their third straight despite making 16 of 32 3-pointers.

Spurs 112, Jazz 105

In Salt Lake City, Manu Ginobili scored 26 points, Tony Parker had 23 and San Antonio earned its 10th win the last 11 games.

Richard Jefferson scored 14 points as the Spurs improved to a franchise-best 39-7 record after 46 games. Only

five teams in NBA history have had better records than the Spurs at this point in the season.

Deron Williams scored 17 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, but Utah lost its sixth straight.

Al Jefferson had 22 points and CJ Miles added 13 for the Jazz.

Rockets 96, Clippers 83

In Houston, Kyle Lowry scored 20 points, leading Houston to victory over Los Angeles.

Aaron Brooks and Luis Scola added 16 points apiece for the Rockets, while Chuck Hayes grabbed 11 rebounds and led Houston's stingy defense on rookie star Blake Griffin.

Randy Foye scored a season-high 20 points and DeAndre Jordan grabbed 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who mustered only 10 points in the final quarter to drop their fourth straight road game.

Griffin had 14 points and 11 rebounds, shooting only 5 for 16 from the field.

Magic 111, Pacers 96

In Indianapolis, Dwight Howard had 19 points and 16 rebounds to help the Orlando Magic beat the Indiana Pacers 111-96 in the NBA on Wednesday.

Jason Richardson added 19 points and nine rebounds, Hedo Turkoglu scored 18 points and Ryan Anderson had 14 for Orlando, which has won four of its past five games. Danny Granger scored 27 points and Darren Collison added 21 for Indiana, which lost its sixth straight.

The 15-point defeat matched the Pacers' worst home loss of the season.

Nets 93, Grizzlies 88

In Newark, New Jersey, Devin Harris scored nine of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the hosts beat Memphis.

O.J. Mayo missed a tying 3-point attempt with about 3 seconds left and New Jersey's Brook Lopez sealed the victory with two free throws, capping a 17-point performance.

Anthony Morrow had 19 points and Kris Humphries and Sasha Vujacic added



New Orleans Hornets' Chris Paul, left, defends the ball against Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

14 points apiece as the Nets closed out a 4-1 homestand that began with Russian owner Mikhail Prokhorov halting trade talks with Denver for Carmelo Anthony.

Rudy Gay had 22 points for Memphis and Zach Randolph added 20 points and 16 rebounds.

76ers 107, Raptors 94

At Toronto, Marreese Speights scored a season-high 23 points to lead Philadelphia over Toronto.

Jrue Holiday had 15 points and 11 assists and Andre Iguodala and Lou Williams each scored 15 as the 76ers won their third straight, matching a season high.

DeMar DeRozan scored 29 and Andrea Bargnani had 17 as the Raptors lost their ninth straight game. It's Toronto's longest losing streak since a 10-game slide from March 26 to April 12, 2006.

Nuggets 109, Pistons 100

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups scored 26 points, including a trio of 3-pointers late in the game, as Denver topped Detroit.

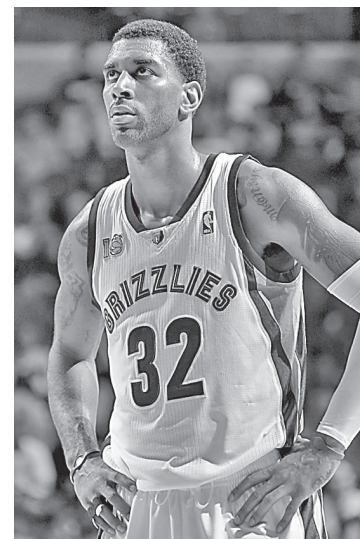
Carmelo Anthony had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to help the Nuggets win for the seventh time in nine games.

Will Bynum scored 19 points and Ben Gordon added 15 for Detroit, which had won five of seven.

The Pistons trailed by one with a few minutes left, but Anthony converted a three-point play and Billups found his range from deep to help Denver win on the road against Detroit for the first time since 1995.

In Milwaukee, Earl Boykins scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to help Milwaukee rally past Atlanta.

In other NBA games it was Orlando 111, Indiana 96; New Jersey 93, Memphis 88; Philadelphia 107, Toronto 94; Denver 109, Detroit 100; Milwaukee 98, Atlanta 90; Oklahoma City 118, Minnesota 117, OT; Houston 96, L.A. Clippers 83; Charlotte 114, Phoenix 107; San Antonio 112, Utah 105; and New Orleans 112, Golden State 103. □



Memphis Grizzlies guard O.J. Mayo looks on in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, in Memphis, Tenn. The Grizzlies defeated the Mavericks 89-70.

Associated Press

O.J. Mayo suspended 10 games for positive test

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — The NBA suspended guard O.J. Mayo for 10 games without pay on Thursday for violating the league and union's anti-drug program with a positive doping test.

Mayo tested positive for dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), blaming an over-the-counter supplement that he didn't know was banned by the NBA. His suspension will start on Friday when the Grizzlies visit Philadelphia, and he will be able to return on Feb. 15 also against the 76ers in Memphis.

Mayo said in a statement released by the team that he was extremely disappointed he will miss 10 games as the Grizzlies were making a push for the playoffs.

"It was an honest mistake, but I take full responsibility for my actions," Mayo said. "I apologize to my fans, teammates and the Grizzlies organization for regrettably not doing the necessary research about what supplements I can put in my body."

Mayo was the No. 3 draft pick overall in 2008, and Minnesota swapped him in a draft night deal to the Grizzlies for Kevin Love. Mayo was runner-up to Chicago's Derrick Rose for rookie of the year. □

SPORTS BRIEFS

NFL: Players to lose millions if no deal by March

NEW YORK — The NFL says more than 500 players would miss out on hundreds of millions of contract dollars in March if a new labor deal isn't reached by the deadline.

Jeff Pash, the league's lead negotiator, says Thursday that there is "a set of very real consequences if we don't have an agreement by early March."

The current collective bargaining agreement is set to expire March 3. Owners could impose a lockout as early as the next day.

Although no formal large-group negotiating sessions are currently scheduled, Pash says the March 3 deadline could be extended if there's progress.

The league estimates its gross revenue losses at \$120 million with no deal by March and \$1 billion with no deal by September.

Pash says "there's a lot at risk" for owners and players. □

Brazil, Argentina top teams in Olympic qualifying

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Brazil and Argentina are the top seeded teams in an Olympic qualifying basketball tournament set for later this year in Mar del Plata.

In Thursday's draw, Brazil is in Group A with Canada, Venezuela, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Argentina is in Group B with Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Panama and Paraguay.

The tournament is Aug. 30-Sept. 11 with the top two getting automatic places in the 2012 London Olympics. The teams that finish third, fourth and fifth could advance through another qualifying tournament in 2012. □

NHL shakes up All-Star game with unique draft



Carolina Hurricanes Joe Corvo (77) looks on as teammate Eric Staal (12) celebrates after scoring a goal in the second period of their NHL hockey game against the New York Islanders at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y., Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011.

Associated Press

IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — While the NFL and NBA are facing labor uncertainty, the NHL is taking a moment to puff out its chest as it heads into an All-Star weekend unlike any other.

Six years after a full season was lost, the NHL finds itself in a unique position of negotiated calm and unprecedented success. The NHL will never enjoy the revenue streams the NFL produces, but the little brother league can relate to the uncertainty that threatens upcoming American football and basketball games.

The NHL certainly likes its current view, far away from the storm.

As it takes the midseason spectacle to Raleigh for the first time, the NHL said it was on pace to break revenue records. The league expects total revenue to rise for the fifth straight year to nearly \$2.9 billion. League-generated revenue was believed to be going up by 14 percent — an 85 percent jump over the past four years.

"The league is extremely well positioned," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "The vital signs are good and we anticipate continued growth and momentum. The strong numbers are a testament to a great product on the ice, a growing fan base that loves our game, and a strategy that provided a path for corporate America to reach that fan base." And now the NHL is pushing the envelope.

While the league and All-Star game will take a big hit because Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby — the face of the league and its most popular player — is out with a concussion, at least there is another hook to draw people in. Aside from taking the All-Star game outside — a la the Winter Classic on New Year's Day — it is hard to envision a more radical change to the format that seemingly worked for years. This year's teams will be chosen by a televised draft on Friday.

"You look around the leagues, the concept is pretty much the same: Voted in or picked by fans or hockey personnel,"

Phoenix Coyotes defenseman Ed Jovanovski said. "I'd say this caught people probably 90 percent off-guard."

Brendan Shanahan is proving to be every bit as creative an executive as he was in building a Hall of Fame-caliber playing career. The eight-time All-Star, now the NHL's vice president of hockey and business development, worked with the league and the players' association to develop a plan that fans could relate to even more than the All-Stars themselves.

Instead of dividing the players by conference or nationality, both tried and true methods, the All-Star teams won't be set until the captains make their picks.

This is where fantasy meets reality. The draft is such an interesting concept, the NHL is running the risk that it will overshadow the game.

Eric Staal of the host Carolina Hurricanes will serve as captain of the aptly named "Team Staal," and along with his alternate captains — Washington defenseman Mike Green and Vancouver's Ryan Kesler — will stage a draft against Detroit defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom and his assistants Martin St. Louis of the Tampa Bay Lightning and Patrick Kane of Chicago on "Team Lidstrom."

One by one, All-Stars will be plucked off the board until both squads are set for Saturday's skills competition and Sunday's game — the first since 2009 after a one-year hiatus created by the Vancouver Olympics.

Will the draft split up the Vancouver Canucks' Sedin twins, who have always played together? Will Staal pick his younger brother, Marc, a New York Rangers defenseman, or goalie Cam Ward — a teammate on the Hurricanes?

Eric Staal has already gotten pressure from his mother to choose Marc, and the Staals will be in town for a big family reunion. □

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NHL Roundup

Kings beat Sharks 3-2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jarret Stoll scored the only shootout goal in the fourth round as Los Angeles headed into the NHL All-Star break with its third straight victory, 3-2 over the San Jose Sharks on Wednesday.

Jonathan Quick made 22 saves and stopped all four San Jose tries in the shootout, ending the Sharks' four-game winning streak.

Ryan Smyth scored his 19th goal and Alexei Ponikarovsky tied it early in the third period for the Kings.

Ryane Clowe and Devin Setoguchi scored 39 seconds apart late in the second period for the Sharks.

Thrashers 1, Capitals 0

In Atlanta, Ondrej Pavelec made 36 saves as Atlanta won for only the fifth time in 17 games, blanking Washington.

The Thrashers ended a three-game losing streak that included a 7-1 rout at Tampa Bay on Sunday.

Nik Antropov scored the only goal at 11:21 of the second period after Washington defenseman Jeff Schultz lost control of a bouncing puck backing into his own zone. Antropov got his ninth goal and fifth point in six games.

Canucks 2, Predators 1

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Lee Sweatt scored the winning goal with 7:29 left in his first NHL game to lead Vancouver over Nashville. Sweatt, who played the last four seasons in Europe, put the Canucks ahead for good

less than 2 minutes after Alexandre Burrows leveled the score in the third period. Roberto Luongo finished with 26 saves for the Canucks, who have won two in a row after a 0-1-3 slide.

Rinne finished with 33 saves for the Predators, who lost consecutive games for the first time since late December.

Bruins 2, Panthers 1

In Boston, Tim Thomas stopped 34 shots to lead surging Boston over Florida.

Brad Marchand and Milan Lucic scored for the Bruins, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

Bryan Allen scored for Florida, and Tomas Vokoun stopped made 33 saves.

After the Panthers pulled Vokoun with 1:08 left, former Bruin Dennis Wideman put a shot on net in the game's final seconds, but Thomas saved it with his body.

Hurricanes 4, Islanders 2

In Uniondale, New York, Eric Staal scored two goals and assisted on another to help Carolina beat New York.

Zach Boychuk and Brandon Sutter also scored and Cam Ward made 23 saves for Hurricanes, who have won three of their last four games.

Michael Grabner and Andrew MacDonald scored for New York.

Red Wings 3, Devils 1

In Detroit, Jimmy Howard saved 23 shots as the hosts topped New Jersey.

Valtteri Filppula scored 5:32 into the third period to

break a 1-1 tie and put the Red Wings ahead to stay. Darren Helm and Johan Franzen also had goals for Detroit, which ended New Jersey's four-game winning streak.

Brian Rolston scored for New Jersey and Martin Brodeur made 26 saves.

New Jersey had a goal disallowed with 2:28 remaining when officials ruled Howard was pushed into the net by an attacking player.

Stars 3, Oilers 1

At Dallas, Brenden Morrow scored twice to help Dallas bounce back from two road losses with a win over Edmonton.

Kari Lehtonen also stopped 34 shots, improving on his poor performance on Monday, when he allowed seven goals in a loss to Vancouver.

Adam Burish added a goal and Jamie Langenbrunner assisted on both of Morrow's goals for the Stars.

Nikolai Khabibulin made 18 saves and Dustin Penner had a power-play goal for Edmonton, which has only won four of its last 21 games.

Coyotes 5, Avalanche 2

In Denver, Ilya Bryzgalov made 29 saves and Eric Belanger scored twice for Phoenix.

Keith Yandle had a goal and an assist and Scott Upshall and Kyle Turris also scored to help the Coyotes run their road winning streak to five games. Phoenix rebounded from a 4-3 home loss to Edmonton on Thursday.

Matt Duchene and Ryan



Los Angeles Kings left wing Alexei Ponikarovsky, center, of Ukraine falls to the ice as he celebrates his goal along with teammate center Brad Richardson, right, as San Jose Sharks goalie Antti Niemi, left, of Finland looks on during the third period of their NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011, in Los Angeles. The Kings won 3-2 in an overtime shootout.

Associated Press

Stoa scored for Colorado, and Craig Anderson made 25 saves in relief of Peter Budaj.

Flames 4, Blues 1

At Calgary, Alberta, David Moss had two power-play goals and added an assist for Calgary.

Adam Parry added his first goal of the season — and fourth in 143 career games — and Jarome Iginla had an empty-net goal. The Flames have won four straight.

Miikka Kiprusoff made 28 saves, allowing only Philip McRae's first NHL goal midway through the

third period. McRae, the 20-year-old son of former NHL player Basil McRae, was playing his seventh NHL game.

St. Louis has lost four in a row.

In other NHL games it was Los Angeles 3, San Jose 2, SO; Boston 2, Florida 1; Carolina 4, N.Y. Islanders 2; Atlanta 1, Washington 0; Detroit 3, New Jersey 1; Dallas 3, Edmonton 1; Phoenix 5, Colorado 2; Calgary 4, St. Louis 1; and Vancouver 2, Nashville 1.

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"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

Ruud Gullit hits back at criticism of Grozny move

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Ruud Gullit has hit back at criticism of his decision to coach Chechnyan club Terek Grozny, whose president, former militia leader Ramzan Kadyrov, also is the Kremlin-backed president of Chechnya.

Gullit's decision surprised his countrymen, since Kadyrov has been accused of human rights abuses. But Gullit compared his decision to the Dutch national team's opting to compete in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina — then ruled by a repressive military dictatorship.

"There was a lot of discussion in 1978, but the Netherlands went then for sport," said Gullit, a former coach of Chelsea, Newcastle, Feyenoord and the Los Angeles Galaxy. The Netherlands lost the 1978 World Cup final 3-1 to Argentina after extra time. "This is exactly the same," he added. "You will always have people for and against. But I don't want to be involved in politics, I want to concentrate on the sport and give the people there a little pleasure in their lives again."



This Nov. 9, 2007 file photo shows Dutch soccer legend Ruud Gullit taking questions from the media after being introduced as the Los Angeles Galaxy's newest head coach at a news conference at The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. Gullit led the Netherlands to the European Championship in 1988 and is one of soccer's most famous names. Now he has taken a coaching job in Chechnya, yes, Chechnya, and that raises a question: What is he thinking?

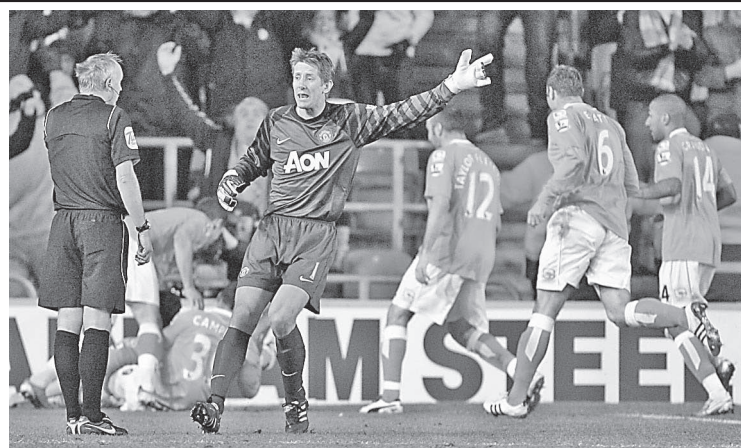
Associated Press

Gullit, a midfielder who combined power and grace in his playing days, is a sporting icon in the Netherlands for leading the country to the 1988 European Championship victory.

He believes his presence in the impoverished republic in the North Caucasus can have a positive influence on the region that is still recovering from two devastating separatist conflicts with Russia.

"There's a boy in the team who has trouble laughing. Members of staff have explained that it is because he lived in bunkers for 10 years because they were at war," Gullit said. "I got that boy laughing again by paying him a compliment. That is beautiful — that is the other side of the story."

Gullit said the toughest element of his stint in Grozny would likely be leaving his family back in Amsterdam. □



Manchester United goalkeeper Edwin Van der Sar argues with referee Peter Walton after Blackpool scored a goal during their English Premier League soccer match at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool, England, Tuesday Jan. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

Edwin Van der Sar retiring at season's end

MIKE CORDER,

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Veteran Manchester United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar confirmed Thursday he will retire at the end of the season.

The Netherlands' most-capped player with 130 appearances says he wants to spend more time with his family.

The 40-year-old keeper said in a statement issued by his management that he still feels fit, but "enough is enough."

Van der Sar's wife Annemarie suffered a stroke last year.

"She fought back bravely, so we decided to stay in England and at Manchester United for another year," Van der Sar said. "But once the season began, the thought of saying goodbye began to gnaw at me."

Van der Sar rose to prominence with Ajax before playing for Juventus, Fulham and Manchester United in a career spanning 21 seasons.

Van der Sar said his most memorable save came in the 2008 Champions League final against Chelsea when he stopped a penalty from Nicolas Anelka to help Manchester United lift Europe's top club trophy. "I've made better saves, but that one was so decisive," he said. "The joy I experienced with the team after that was so intense I'll never forget it." □

IOC

Continued from Page B1

"We are strengthening communication channels with all parties," Rogge said. "This of course includes symposiums such as this and the IOC's first meeting between the sports movement, governments, public international organizations and sports betting operators on March 1."

Rogge compared illegal betting to doping.

"While doping remains our No. 1 threat, billion-dollar betting scams run by criminal gangs and unlicensed gambling outfits are a growing concern," Rogge said at the symposium, hosted by the International Sports Press Association. "And this new scourge needs to be fought

with the same seriousness and unity with which we are fighting doping."

Separately, Rogge wrote in a newspaper opinion piece that the IOC is stepping up its efforts to fight illegal gambling.

"Illegal or irregular betting ... is potentially crippling. Each instance that comes to light undermines confidence in sport, which can lead to spectator apathy and drops in attendance, TV viewership and sponsorship," Rogge wrote. "At its worst, it can deter people from participating in sport in the first place."

Rogge also called on sports bodies and governments around the world to write legislation against illegal betting.

"We are currently in the process of encouraging all our partners in the Olympic Movement to adopt rules that forbid betting on each respective sport," Rogge wrote.

"Without it, there are no grounds on which to punish the cheats."

"The support of governments is also paramount. They are the ones with the authority to create a legal framework in which legal and regular betting can take place."

The IOC-established International Sports Monitoring was created to monitor the Olympics for suspicious betting activity. Rogge noted there have been no instances of concern yet at the games.

If there is a suspicious case,



"we launch an inquiry and the betting companies transfer all the necessary information regarding the bet and the bettor to the IOC."

Thankfully, we did not have to activate this system at the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 or in Vancouver last

year," Rogge wrote.

Match-fixing and suspicious betting have come up more and more in recent years, particularly in football and tennis. The International Tennis Federation has created the Tennis Integrity Unit to help keep its sport clean. □

Federer, Nadal now gone at Australian Open

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — First Rafael Nadal, now Roger Federer.

The 16-time Grand Slam title-winning Federer was knocked out of the Australian Open 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday by 2008 champion Novak Djokovic.

The talk before the tournament was of a blockbuster final between Nadal, going for his fourth straight Grand Slam win, and Federer, who was aiming for his fifth Australian title and perhaps the only player who could stop him.

Instead, after Nadal was eliminated by fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in an injury-induced straight-set loss Wednesday, and now Federer heading home, it will be Djokovic in the final against either Andy Murray or Ferrer — they play their semifinal on Friday. “I’m looking forward to watching that match tomorrow from my bed with some popcorn,” Djokovic said. “David played a fantastic match against Rafa even though Rafa was struggling obviously with injuries.

“They are in top shape. Andy has been in top shape on this court. It’s a Grand Slam final, anything can happen. I believe in myself, it’s really one of the best matches I’ve played in a while.”

It will be the first time since 2003 that Federer will not hold any of the four major titles and the first time that neither Nadal nor Federer will not feature in a Grand Slam final since the Australian Open in 2008, when Djokovic beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

“I was ready for another two sets easily,” Federer said. “Pity I couldn’t push him there. Wish I could have won here for the fifth time, but it wasn’t possible tonight.”

The finals scenario could open the door for Murray to become the first British Grand Slam singles champion since Fred Perry in 1936 when the final is played Sunday night at Rod Laver Arena.

It is the second straight Grand Slam that Djokovic has knocked Federer out in

the semis. At last year’s U.S. Open, the Serbian player saved match points before beating Federer in five sets to advance to the final against Nadal.

The last time Federer lost in straight sets to Djokovic in a major was here in 2008.

Federer won 11 of 14 points to come back from a service break down to take the lead in the second set after the two traded tit-for-tat booming forehands and chip backhands during the opening set. But Djokovic broke back later in the second set and took his power strokes into the third set to win in an even three hours. It was the 20th meeting of the pair, with Federer still holding a 13-7 edge.

Earlier Thursday, Li Na and Kim Clijsters advanced to Saturday’s women’s final.

Li’s bubbly personality off-court and her steady play on it have won her legions of new fans, particularly in her native China. It might even earn her a Grand Slam singles title. She’s the first Chinese woman to advance to a singles final at a major.

Li fended off a match point in the second set and rebounded for a 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 win over No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki, while Clijsters, advancing to her eighth major final, beat No. 2-ranked Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-3.

“This is good experience for my whole life, because many players, they play a long time, but they never play the final for a Grand Slam,” Li said.

Clijsters says she’ll use her previous appearances in finals — she’s won three U.S. Opens, including two since she returned from a retirement after getting married and having a child — to her advantage.

“I guess I’ve been on tour for a while and I’ve played big matches and not always won them,” Clijsters said. “Although I’ve lost them sometimes, they really do teach you a lot of things.”

For the past 10 days, Li has regaled the crowds and television audiences with her wit, joking about credit card spending, her mother’s



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic hits a forehand return during his quarterfinal win over Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

reluctance to watch any of her matches, and the snoring of her husband and coach’s, Jiang Shan.

A mark of her respect for other players was evident Thursday when she was asked about Clijsters.

“She’s a nice person,” Li replied, preferring to not initially comment on the Belgian’s court prowess. “A good player, tough player, another challenge.”

Her win was big news in China, where television commentator Xu Chang said Li had raised the profile of Chinese tennis, which has long struggled for recognition next to badminton and table tennis. “Li has realized the dreams of all those promoting Chinese tennis,” Xu said.

The official Xinhua News Agency said a Grand Slam win by Li “would also inspire a rush of new tennis players in China.” Li beat Clijsters in the final of the tuneup event at Sydney, where she came back from 5-0 down in the first set to win it in straight sets.

Wozniacki, playing at a major for the first time with the No.



Belgium’s Kim Clijsters waves to the crowd as she celebrates her win over Russia’s Vera Zvonareva in their women’s semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

1 ranking, had match point at 5-4 and 40-30 in the second set before Li rallied. Another 66 minutes later, Li served and won on her first match point.

Li lost to Serena Williams in two tiebreak sets in the semifinals here last year in her previous best run at a major. Her trip to the final is just another first for Li, who was the first Chinese player to win a tour-level title and the first to enter the top 10. She is also the first player from Asia to reach a Grand Slam singles final.

“I’m so happy I can be the first Chinese player to come to a final — I always do the first one!” she said.

Asked what motivated her comeback, she deadpanned: “Prize money.”

Li looked down and out after the first set, when she made 17 unforced errors and struggled for consistency. She finished with 51 unforced errors, but that was a reflection of her pushing Wozniacki to the extremes.

Wozniacki ensured she’ll retain the No. 1 ranking by reaching the semifinals — after coming back from a set and a break down to beat French Open champion Francesca Schiavone in three sets — but she’ll no doubt be answering questions about her ranking for tournaments to come. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Toyota to recall 1.7 million vehicles worldwide

Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor has said its group sales in 2010 rose despite a global recall that damaged its brand image, enabling the company to retain its position as the world's biggest automaker.

Read Page B9



Street sign shows the New York-based financial centre, Wall Street. A documentary opening at the Sundance Film Festival suggests that the 2008 financial meltdown highlighted not only the greed of US banks, but the growing economic woes of average Americans, the filmmaker says

Panel finds financial crisis was avoidable

By MARCY GORDON
DANIEL WAGNER,
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — The government-appointed panel investigating the roots of the financial crisis says the meltdown occurred because government officials and Wall Street executives ignored warning signs and failed to manage risks. The crisis could have been avoided, the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission determined in a final report released Thursday that was only supported by Democrats on the panel. Instead the country fell into the deepest recession since the 1930s and millions of people lost their jobs, the congressionally appointed panel concluded. The Bush and Clinton administrations, the current and previous Federal Reserve chairmen, and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner all bear some responsibility for allowing the crisis to happen, the panel said. □

Social Security posting \$600B deficit over 10 years

By STEPHEN
OHLEMACHER,

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Social Security will post nearly \$600 billion in deficits over the next decade as the economy struggles to recover and millions of baby boomers stand at the brink of retirement, according to new congressional projections. This year alone, Social Security is projected to collect \$45 billion less in payroll taxes than it pays out in retirement, disability and survivor benefits, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said Wednesday. That figure swells to \$130 billion when a new one-year cut in payroll taxes is included, though Congress has promised to repay any lost revenue from the tax cut.

Last year, Social Security posted its first deficit since the program was last overhauled in the 1980s. The CBO said at the time that Social Security would post surpluses for a few more years before permanently slipping into deficits in 2016.

But the new projections show nothing but red ink until the Social Security trust funds are exhausted in 2037.

The outlook has grown bleaker as the nation struggles to recover from its worst economic crisis since Social Security was enacted during the Great Depression. In the short term, Social Security is suffering from a weak economy that has payroll



--FILE-- Sens. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and John Cornyn, R-Texas, listen as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell speaks to reporters after the weekly caucus luncheons in Washington in this Jan. 25, 2011, file photo. McConnell says he's ready to work with Obama on Social Security and other tough issues.

taxes lagging and applications for benefits rising. In the long term, Social Security will be strained by the growing number of baby boomers retiring and applying for benefits.

More than 54 million people receive retirement, disability or survivor benefits from Social Security. Monthly payments average \$1,076.

The deficits add a sense of urgency to efforts to improve Social Security's finances. For much of the past 30 years, Social Security has run big surpluses, which the government has borrowed to spend on other programs. Now that the program is running deficits, the federal

government will have to find money elsewhere to pay back Social Security, so it continue to issue benefits.

"I've received the lash from those who say, 'Well, you shouldn't have to cut Social Security because there are trillions of dollars of assets,'" said Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. "It is true there are trillions of dollars of assets. It is true that they're backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. It is also true that the only way those bonds get redeemed is out of the current income of the United States."

Other lawmakers said Social Security's financial problems

(AP Photo/Harry Hamburg, file) are not that urgent.

"In the last 75 years, in good times and in bad times, Social Security has paid out every nickel owed to every eligible beneficiary at a relatively modest administrative cost," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, who organized the first meeting of the Senate Social Security caucus Thursday.

"We are getting very tired about hearing our Republican and right wing friends telling us about how Social Security is collapsing when the reality is, Social Security today has a surplus of \$2.6 trillion," Sanders said. "Social Security can pay out every benefit owed to every eligible American, for the next 27 years." □

Stocks trade flat after mixed earnings reports



A woman walks past the bronze bull statue near Wall Street in lower Manhattan on January 26, in New York. The United States as a nation must accept blame for causing the financial crisis that engulfed the global economy and cost millions of jobs, a US government-appointed panel reported Thursday.

By CHIP CUTTER
DAVID K. RANDALL,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Stock indexes were flat in midday trading Thursday after a surprise jump in applications for unemployment benefits and mixed earnings reports from large U.S. companies. First-time applications for unemployment rose to 454,000, the highest level since late October. Economists had expected the number to rise to 407,000. Snowstorms in some parts of the country forced companies to lay off workers, economists said. Caterpillar Inc. rose 0.8 percent after its fourth-quarter profit quadrupled on strong global demand for mining and construction equipment.

Exxon: Global gasoline demand to fall over 20 yrs

By JONATHAN FAHEY,
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK – There will be 400 million more cars on the world's roads 20 years from now, yet gasoline consumption will decline, according to a projection from Exxon Mobil Corp. in its long-term energy outlook released Thursday. The world's biggest investor-owned oil and gas company expects energy use overall will grow 35 percent by 2030. But that growth would be three times higher if people used as much energy per capita as they do now. Nowhere is that more apparent than in projections of gasoline demand. People in developing countries, especially China, will drive millions of more cars and gas demand will grow, but the cars will be more efficient than those of the past. Meanwhile, improvements in fuel efficiency in the U.S. and Europe will create a drop in demand that more than matches Asia's growth. Demand for fuel for passenger vehicles will decline by 20 percent in the U.S. and by one third in Europe by 2030. Exxon's long-term energy analysis, updated

Time Warner Cable Inc. gained 2 percent after raising its dividend thanks to a 22 percent jump in income last quarter. AT&T Inc. fell 3 percent, the largest drop in the 30 companies that make up the Dow Jones industrial average. The company reported that new wireless contracts fell to the lowest level in more than five years. Procter & Gamble Co., the maker of consumer products like Tide detergent, fell 2.9 percent after it failed to meet analyst's expectations. The Dow Jones industrial average inched up 2 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 11,987. The index broke through the 12,000 mark yesterday for the first time since June 2008 before

and released to the public every year, paints a picture of what Bill Colton, vice president, Corporate Strategic Planning called a "tale of two worlds." In developed countries like the U.S., Japan, and the nations of Europe, demand for energy will stay flat even as economic activity increases by 60 percent. In developing countries like China, India and Brazil, demand for energy will rise more than 70 percent as more and more people gain access to electricity and transportation. Exxon's annual analysis differs from similar projections done by the U.S. Energy Information Administration in that it incorporates expected policy changes in its forecasts. "The degree of analysis that goes into their projections is as rigorous as you get from any other institution," says Lawrence Eagles, an analyst at JP Morgan, of the Exxon report. "It provides a good framework to look into the future." While demand for gasoline is expected to stay flat, demand for oil is expected to grow. Diesel, jet fuel, and other oil-derived transportation fuels are expected to more than make up for the small decline in gasoline demand. □

slipping in the late afternoon. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 was flat at 1,296. The last time the index closed above 1,300 was Aug. 28, 2008.

The Nasdaq composite gained 9, or 0.3 percent, to 2,748.

A government-appointed panel said Thursday that the financial crisis could have been avoided if Wall Street executives and government officials had properly managed risks. The panel said that the Bush and Clinton administrations, the Federal Reserve and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner share responsibility for allowing the crisis to happen. The panel's conclusions had been leaked ahead of its formal report and were widely expected on Wall Street.

After the market closed Wednesday, Netflix Inc. reported that its subscriber base rose above 20 million customers. The stock jumped 14 percent to \$208. Netflix has quadrupled over the last 12 months.

Amazon.com Inc. and Microsoft Corp. will report earnings after the market closes.

Bond prices fell slightly, sending yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.44 percent from 3.41 percent late Wednesday. □



Toyota Motor said it will recall 1.7 million vehicles worldwide over concerns about possible fuel leakages, in the latest setback for the troubled Japanese auto giant.

Toyota to recall 1.7 million vehicles worldwide

by Shingo Ito

TOKYO – Toyota Motor said Wednesday it will recall 1.7 million vehicles worldwide over concerns about possible fuel leakages, in the latest setback for the troubled Japanese auto giant.

The move will see the world's largest automaker pull 1.28 million vehicles in Japan and 421,000 overseas, Toyota and the Japanese transport ministry said.

Analysts say the carmaker now faces further pressure in its battle to regain consumer trust overseas after a crisis involving millions of recalls, a wave of lawsuits and record fines. Its shares tumbled 1.87 percent in Tokyo Wednesday. Defective parts prompting the latest recalls include engine fuel pipes that may crack and leak, and faulty pressure sensors connected to engine fuel delivery pipes.

"Slight cracks may appear on the engine fuel pipes. If it continues to be used, the crack may be widened and there may be risks of fuel leakage," Japan's transport ministry said in a statement.

The recalls include around 245,000 of Toyota's luxury Lexus vehicles in the United States, including Lexus GS 300 and 350 models as well as the IS250 and IS350 vehicles, Toyota said.

The car giant will pull 74,590 Lexus, Crown and other cars in Japan over similar leakage fears, and around 10,000 Lexus units in Europe.

Domestically, 19 models such as Noah, Voxy, Caldina and Isis produced between 2000 and 2009 will be affected.

No accidents have been reported out of more than 140 cases, it said.

Toyota said it would begin fixing defective parts for free on Thursday in Japan and would follow recall regulations overseas. "We sincerely apologise to our customers for causing a lot of trouble," the company said in a statement.

In 2008 Toyota ended General Motors' 77-year reign as the world's largest automaker but the road has been a bumpy one for the Japanese giant, facing the impact of the economic crisis, recalls and recently a strong yen.

Earlier this week, Toyota announced global sales of 8.42 million vehicles, just ahead of General Motors' 8.39 million, confirming its position as the world's biggest carmaker for the third year running but with GM closing in.

Previously lauded for its vehicles' safety and reliability, a US recall of around four million vehicles in late 2009 swelled to nearly nine million units by February 2010 for brake and accelerator defects linked to some driver fatalities.

As criticism mounted of its slow response and bureaucratic inflexibility, Toyota tightened its recall policy and by November last year had pulled nearly 13 million vehicles over a range of issues. □

In U.S. courts, Facebook posts become less private

By Brian Grow

ATLANTA — It's the latest litigation tactic in the online age: U.S. lawyers are trying to mine the private zones of Facebook and other social-media sites for photos, comments, status updates and other tidbits that might contradict what their opponents are saying in court. And increasingly, judges in civil cases are granting access to online caches that had formerly been considered off-limits.

Defense lawyers in personal-injury cases, in particular, are finding social networks to be a rich source of potentially exculpatory evidence. In one recent case, a New York woman who claimed to be bedridden after falling off a defective chair showed up in family Facebook photos smiling happily in front of her house.

While judges have long allowed information gleaned from public portions of networking sites to be used as evidence in civil trials,



The Facebook logo is displayed on a computer screen in Brussels April 21, 2010.

materials that are password-protected or reserved for selected "friends" have been given a greater level of protection. But in recent months, two state courts have granted defendants broad access to "private" photos and comments. A federal court issued a similar ruling in 2009. This shifting legal balance between privacy and evidence-gathering reflects the broader debate that has been raging over what level

of privacy, if any, citizens can expect as they put more and more personal information online. And privacy, at least on this front, seems to be losing. "This is beginning to catch on across the country," said Jim Dempsey, vice president of public policy at the Center for Democracy and Technology, a liberal think tank. "You do have a right of privacy in your private Facebook postings. But in the context of litigation, that right can be overcome."

Microsoft 2Q earnings edge down on slow PC sales

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. on Thursday said its net income for the latest quarter fell slightly from a year ago, and it beat Wall Street's expectations despite the weak personal computer market. Microsoft's net income for the October-December quarter was \$6.63 billion, compared with \$6.66 billion in the same period last year. Thanks to stock buybacks, net income rose to 77 cents per share, from 74 cents. Analysts surveyed by FactSet were expecting net income of 69 cents per share for the fiscal second quarter. Much of Microsoft's business depends on selling copies of the Windows operating system and Office desktop software, products that rise and fall with fluctuations in the personal computer market. Revenue plunged 30 percent in the Windows division to \$5.1 billion, in a quarter when worldwide personal computer shipments only grew about 3 percent, as Apple Inc.'s iPad and the promise of more tablet devices to come made consumers think twice about what kind of device to buy.

However, the division that sells Office software, the Sharepoint online collaboration system and other business programs, saw revenue rise 24 percent to \$6 billion. Big companies that put off buying new technology during the worst of the recession are more willing now to upgrade their systems. Strength in the entertainment and devices division, which is responsible for Xbox 360, also helped make up for weak Windows sales. Microsoft says it sold 8 million of its new Kinect motion-sensing controller for the video-game system, helping push revenue for the segment up 55 percent to \$3.7 billion. In all, Microsoft's revenue edged up 5 percent to \$20 billion, topping analysts' expectations for \$19.2 billion in revenue. The software maker rushed out its earnings report a few minutes early, just before the markets closed for the day. Shares spiked to more than \$29 per share in heavy trading about 15 minutes before the closing bell, before dropping



back to \$28.87, a 9-cent gain for the day. "A preproduction draft of our earnings release was discovered by one or more media sources who then published our results to the Web before market close," Microsoft's Bill Koefoed, general manager of investor relations, said in a statement. "After consulting with NASDAQ, we have posted our official numbers. We apologize for any confusion and will review our procedures to ensure this does not happen again." This has happened before to other companies, including The Walt Disney Co. last year. □

AT&T CEO: We'll push Android phones

By PETER SVENSSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — The CEO of AT&T Inc. on Thursday said the company will start "very aggressively" marketing smart phones based on Google Inc.'s Android software now that it will no longer be the exclusive carrier for Apple Inc.'s iPhone in the U.S.

So far, Verizon Wireless, AT&T's chief competitor, has been the biggest supporter of Android. But it will start selling the iPhone on Feb. 10, and is likely to shift resources away from Android.

Motorola on Wednesday said it's already seeing a drop-off in sales of its Android phones in Verizon stores, as customers are holding off, waiting for the iPhone.

In effect, AT&T and Verizon Wireless are set to swap strategies in the high-stakes smart phone market, with AT&T turning to Android and Verizon to the iPhone.

"We're going to be a heavy participant in the Android market this year, so you're going to see a significant shift in mix" of the phones sold by AT&T, CEO Randall Stephenson told analysts on a conference call. Apart from Motorola Mobility Holdings Inc., major makers of Android phones are Samsung Electronics Corp. and HTC Corp.

AT&T, the nation's largest telecommunications company, also provided an earnings forecast for the year that disappointed analysts, and said it signed up a net of just 400,000 new customers on contract-based wireless plans in the last three months of last year. It was the lowest quarterly number in at least five years.

Shares of AT&T, which are part of the Dow Jones industrial average, fell 77 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$27.96 in afternoon trading. The low number of new



FILE - In this March 23, 2010 file photo, AT&T President and CEO Randall Stephenson delivers a keynote speech during the CTIA wireless show, in Las Vegas. AT&T Inc. on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011 said it signed up a net of just 400,000 customers on contract-based wireless plans in the fourth quarter, the lowest number in at least five years.

(AP Photo/Isaac Brekken, File) contracts demonstrated that even though AT&T activated a lot of iPhones — 4.1 million — the iconic phone has lost much of its power to attract customers from other carriers. Since it launched in 2007, the iPhone has been driving millions of high-paying subscribers to AT&T, and it now earns more per subscriber than any other carrier. If its per-subscriber revenue was in line with Verizon's, AT&T would pull in \$7.7 billion less every year.

Subscribers who sign two-year contracts are the most lucrative for wireless carriers and are an important measure of their performance. Verizon Wireless, AT&T's chief competitor, on Tuesday reported adding more than twice as many subscribers under contract. However, the difference is exaggerated by the fact that Verizon sells tablets with contracts, while AT&T doesn't.

Stephenson said the company expects to continue to add contract-based subscribers this year, partly thanks to significant network upgrades last year. Complaints about dropped calls and other network problems have haunted the company for years.

"We're really starting to feel good about the network situation. We're making a lot of progress here," the CEO said. □

Sean Connery immortalized with Estonian bust



British Ambassador Peter Cater unveils a bronze bust of Oscar-winning actor Sean Connery, a prominent Scottish nationalist, at the Scottish Club in Tallin, Estonia, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011. The bust was created by Estonia's most famous sculptor Tiiu Kirsipuu, and is intended to mark the year Sir Sean turned 80. The club itself was first founded in 1993 as a whisky society, but became associated with prominent politicians and top business figures. Based in the heart of Tallinn's Unesco heritage site, its staff serve guests dressed in kilts, while the carpet is tartan.

(AP Photo/Timur Nisametdinov, NIPA)

By JARI TANNER,
Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia – He's been honored with an Oscar and British knighthood. As of Thursday, Sean Connery can count a bronze sculpture in the Estonian capital among his tributes.

The bust of Scotland's most famous actor was unveiled

by British Ambassador Peter Carter outside Tallinn's Scottish Club, whose members include Estonians enamored with Scotland and a handful of expatriate Scots.

"Sir Sean Connery is, without a doubt, an icon," Carter told dozens of invited guests. "He is variously known as James Bond or the sexiest man of the

century. He's a great British actor, a great Scot actor and a great symbol for Scotland." The Scottish Club, which started as a whiskey sampling society in the early 1990s, got the idea of honoring "Scots who have made a difference" a few years back, said president Mart Haamer. It already has a bust of 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Haamer read a brief statement from the 80-year-old actor, who won an Academy Award for a supporting role in "The Untouchables."

"One cannot help but be flattered by the Scottish Club's gesture. My best wishes to the members of the club and to all the people who made this possible," the statement said.

A vocal supporter of the pro-independence Scottish National Party, Connery lives in the Bahamas and has said he will not live in Scotland again until it gains independence from the United Kingdom.

However, Carter noted that "the fact that he has accepted knighthood, suggests that he is also a great supporter of the queen." □



Anthony Hopkins wants to play Hitchcock on screen

LOS ANGELES – Hopkins as Hitchcock?

Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins says he hopes play the legendary filmmaker on screen and has been attached to such a project for four years.

The 73-year-old actor says Hitchcock was "a very interesting man, very strange guy, very dark man." Hopkins says that 50 years ago he saw a film about the making of "Psycho" that stuck with him as "the most frightening film I have ever seen."

He says British director Sacha Gervasi is set to direct the Hitchcock film.

Hopkins says he's hopeful that the project comes to fruition, adding that, in Hollywood today, "you just turn it over and go with whatever happens if you are lucky."

Hopkins' latest film is "The Rite," which opens Friday. He won the best-actor Oscar for 1991's "Silence of the Lambs." □

Charlie Sheen hospitalized with abdominal pain



LOS ANGELES – Charlie Sheen's publicist says the actor has been hospitalized in Los Angeles with severe abdominal pains.

Publicist Stan Rosenfield

gave no other details of the 45-year-old's condition.

Celebrity website TMZ.com was the first to report Sheen's hospitalization Thursday. TMZ says Sheen was taken by ambulance following an early morning 911 call.

The Emmy-nominated star of CBS' "Two and a Half Men" has been dogged by personal problems and apparent health issues. This is his third hospitalization in as many months. And just last week, CBS entertainment president Nina Tassler said network officials "have a high level of concern" about his off-camera behavior. □

SAG Awards get greener with paperless ballots



FILE - In this Jan. 21, 2011 file photo, craftsman Ricardo Godinez applies a green-black patina coating to a statuette being finished for the 17th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the American Fine Arts Foundry in Burbank, Calif. The SAG Awards will be held in Los Angeles on Sunday, Jan. 30.

By SANDY COHEN,

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES – Lots of Hollywood productions celebrate their eco-friendliness, but the Screen Actors Guild Awards has made one of the greenest moves yet: It has all but eliminated the paper ballot. The union's annual show, which recognizes the best performances in TV and film, urged its 125,000 members

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

to vote online for this year's winners and only sent paper ballots to those who specifically requested them.

The move saved three tons of paper, says SAG Awards producer Kathy Connell.

But it wasn't without risk. Though members were notified of the digital shift in the November issue of the union's magazine, some still expected the traditional paper ballot

to arrive in the mail. Pundits have speculated that online voting may alienate some of SAG's older or less tech-savvy members.

Connell contends that members handle all kinds of union business online, and SAG Awards staffers are on hand to answer any awards-related questions.

The guild has offered online voting for the past five years, but previously backed up that offer with a paper ballot.

"We've been sending the printed ballot and each year, more and more people chose to vote online," Connell says. "We thought there might be a possibility of a few people who weren't as comfortable (without) a printed ballot. When we get to the end, we'll see what the results are."

She declined to reveal how many paper ballots were requested or how many votes are typically cast. SAG Awards voting closes Friday. The awards will be presented Sunday at the Shrine Exhibition Center. □

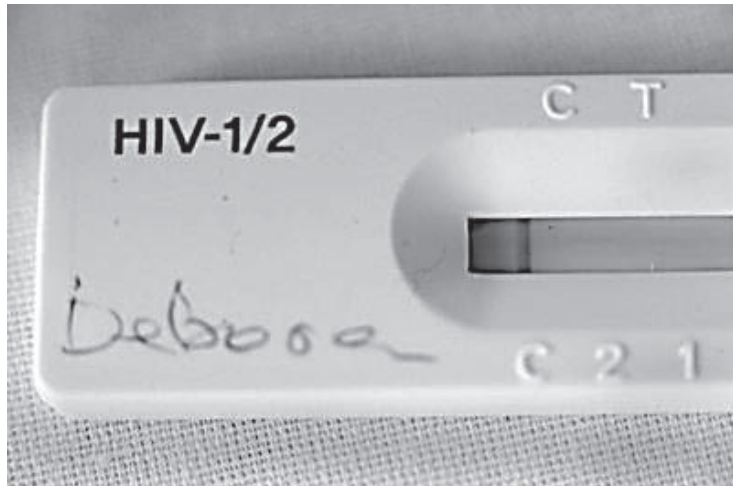
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Don't drink & DRIVE

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

CDC Issues Guidance on Daily Pill to Prevent Infection With HIV



A HIV test kit shows a negative result. Germany said on Wednesday it was suspending yearly payments of 200 million euros (274 million dollars) to the Global Fund Against AIDS, TB and Malaria following allegations of corruption.

By Amanda Gardner

U.S. health authorities on Thursday issued an "interim guidance" to help doctors and patients using Truvada, the once-a-day combination pill that was shown in November to help prevent the spread of HIV in high-risk individuals. The guidance, from experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stresses that only gay and bisexual men at high risk for contracting the virus -- the same population included in the study -- should use the pill. When used as a preventive agent, the medication should only be given to men who are currently HIV-negative and only as part of a larger prevention plan that includes testing for other sexually transmitted diseases, counseling and using condoms faithfully.

"While we think this is really a very important new tool in HIV prevention, it has only been proven safe and effective with men who have sex with men, so at this point we don't feel we have the information to discuss its use for anyone other than [this group]," said Dr. Dawn Smith, lead author of the new guidance, which appears in the Jan. 28 issue

of the CDC journal Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Even for highly sexually active gay and bisexual men, "it's not the first line of prevention," Smith said. "It's meant for men who are unable to successfully, consistently use standard methods of reducing their risk of acquiring HIV."

In essence, Truvada is "meant to function as a safety net in addition to those methods. So if a man can't use condoms consistently then maybe [Truvada] would be helpful while they improve condom use," Smith said.

Truvada is a combination of two anti-HIV drugs, emtricitabine (Emtriva) and tenofovir (Viread), included in a once-a-day pill. The pill is already available by prescription as a treatment for HIV infection.

A study published Nov. 25 in the New England Journal of Medicine found that it cut the risk of HIV infection by almost 44 percent in those at highest risk for contracting the virus, namely sexually active gay and bisexual men. The risk reduction climbed to nearly 73 percent among study participants who took the pill 90 percent of the time,

the researchers added.

Both the treatment and the control group in the study also received intensive counseling on safe sex practices and were given condoms (about 500,000 condoms were distributed throughout the course of the trial). Men in the study reported having had an average of 18 sexual partners in the previous 12 weeks.

Another expert agreed, however, that Truvada is not meant to supplant the condom. "There has always been a concern that people will see this as an either/or proposition [pill or condom] but it's clearly 'and,'" said Dr. Michael Horberg, director of HIV/AIDS at Kaiser Permanente

Health Plan.

"A lot of organizations such as ours have strategized how best to interpret the study results and we totally agree with the considerations of the CDC," he said.

At the time the study was released, the CDC issued "immediate cautions" with similar but less specific recommendations.

This interim report includes more specific information, including getting tested and receiving safe-sex counseling every two to three months while on the medication.

The guidance is intended to fill a gap until formal U.S. Public Health Service guidelines are issued hopefully later this

year, Smith said.

"We're working on the first draft of the formal guidelines but, because they involve other Health & Human Services agencies and a public comment process, we don't expect them until later this year," said Smith, who is a biomedical intervention implementation officer at the U.S. National Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention, part of the CDC.

One cloud in the silver lining: A year's worth of Truvada totals more than \$10,000 a year, and that is the discounted rate. Generic versions are available in some countries (not the United States) for as low as \$500 a year. □

Can adjustable glasses help kids in poor countries?



A visually impaired boy wears glasses in this file photo.

By Amy Norton

NEW YORK — For many children in poor nations, a simple pair of glasses can be out of reach. But a new study suggests relatively cheap specs that people can adjust themselves hold some promise. The study, reported in the journal Ophthalmology, looked at the usefulness of "self-refracting" glasses for adolescents with vision problems, mostly nearsightedness.

The glasses are designed so that the wearer can adjust them to the right strength without the need for eye professionals, who are scarce in developing parts of the world. In parts of sub-

Saharan Africa, for example, there is just one optometrist for every 1 million people.

Made under the name Adspecs, the glasses are already in use. About 30,000 adults in developing nations have received them so far, according to the Center for Vision in the Developing World -- a group directed by Adspecs inventor Dr. Joshua D. Silver, a physicist at Oxford University in the UK. But it hadn't been clear whether children and teenagers could feasibly use the specs. So in the new study, Silver and colleagues in China, the UK and U.S. had 554 Chinese students aged 12 to 17 years try them out.

The researchers compared the students' ability to self-correct their vision -- under the supervision of their teachers, who had been shown how to use the glasses -- against the results of a professional eye exam. The adjustable glasses work via special lenses made of a clear membrane filled with silicon oil and held between two plastic discs. The wearer can change the amount of oil in the lenses using a removable syringe and dial that attach to the glasses' frame. Adding or removing oil changes the curvature of the lenses, which alters their strength.

Among kids in the current study, just over 92 percent were able to correct their nearsightedness using the glasses. That compared with a nearly 100-percent rate when the students were given professional eye exams.

"What we have proven is the basic principle," said Silver in an e-mail to Reuters Health. "The large majority of teenaged children in an area where poor vision from uncorrected refractive error is common can achieve vision sufficient to meet the demands of the classroom." □

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NASA honors astronauts lost from Apollo, shuttles



It was the world's first high-tech catastrophe to unfold on live TV. Adding to the anguish was the young audience: School

"That was kind of our pilot study for all the rest to come, I think. It was so ghastly," said Sally Karioth, a professor in Florida State University's

“The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives,” Reagan told a grieving nation after canceling that night’s State of the Union

Dick Scobee. Michael Smith.
Ellison Onizuka. Judith Resnik.
Ronald McNair. Christa
McAuliffe. Gregory Jarvis. The

Roger Launius, a senior curator at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, says: "When we look back 50 years from now on the shuttle program, we are going to view it as this remarkable technological achievement. And it had a remarkable run for 30 years. □"

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Favorito a presidencia de Perú evalúa despenalizar consumo droga

LIMA (Reuters) - El ex presidente Alejandro Toledo, uno de los favoritos para ganar la primera magistratura de Perú, dijo el jueves que si es electo podría considerar despenalizar el consumo de drogas, pero sin vacilar en el combate al narcotráfico en el mayor productor mundial de coca.

El candidato, que encabeza los últimos sondeos de preferencias de los votantes y se califica como un progresista en temas sociales, adelantó además que está a favor del aborto y de la unión civil entre homosexuales. También es considerado amigo del libre mercado.

Aunque Perú tiene ya reglas permisivas que permiten llevar pequeñas cantidades de droga para consumo personal,

Toledo afirmó que éstas podrían relajarse aún más, justo cuando otros países de América Latina han suavizado sus leyes para enfocarse en perseguir a los grandes traficantes.

“La despenalización del consumo de la droga es una línea a explorar, hay que ponerle un ojo analítico”, dijo Toledo en una conferencia con la prensa extranjera.

“Sino, ésto se convertiría en un narco-Estado; es un tema serio”, precisó el ex mandatario haciendo referencia a la violenta guerra contra el narcotráfico en México.

Convencidos de que ha fallado la guerra de Estados Unidos contra las drogas -que ya lleva cuatro décadas-, Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Ecuador, México



El candidato presidencial peruano y ex mandatario Alejandro Toledo durante una conferencia de prensa con medios extranjeros en Lima, ene 27 2011. REUTERS/Mariana Bazo

Ecuador:

Suspenden procesos de revocatoria de mandato

QUITO (AP) - La Corte Constitucional resolvió suspender el proceso de revocatoria de mandato que permitía a los ecuatorianos someter a votación la posibilidad de dar por terminada la gestión de las autoridades elegidas en comicios, se informó el jueves.

“Con ocho votos favorables de nueve de sus vocales, la Corte Constitucional suspendió los procesos de revocatoria de mandato en todo el país hasta que la Asamblea reglamente la norma constitucional que se puso en vigencia con la Constitución... del 2008”, dijo el presidente de la Asociación de Municipalidades, Francisco León, citado por la agencia oficial de noticias Andes.

La AP llamó a la Corte Constitucional, y la encargada del Departamento de Comunicación, Carolina Paredes, confirmó que ese organismo adoptó tal decisión, pero no quiso dar otros detalles. Esa norma constitucional permitía a cualquier ciudadano revocar el mandato de las autoridades elegidas mediante votación popular tras la recolección de las firmas de un mínimo del 10% de los inscritos en el padrón. Ello desencadenó al menos 580 pedidos, especialmente en contra de alcaldes de pequeñas localidades de todo el país.

El activista político y ex presentador de televisión, Carlos Vera, se encuentra en plena campaña de recolección de firmas para revocar el mandato del presidente Rafael Correa, que inició un nuevo período en agosto de 2009. Para cumplir su objetivo debe reunir un mínimo de 1,5 millón de adhesiones. □

y otros países están bajando las penas por posesión y uso personal de pequeñas dosis de narcóticos.

El plan para alejarse de las políticas de tolerancia cero aumentó en el último año y el Gobierno del presidente estadounidense Barack Obama ha mostrado poca oposición a los cambios.

Perú ha superado a Colombia como productor mundial de hoja de coca, según datos de Naciones Unidas, y analistas han estimado que la violencia en el país andino podría aumentar a similares niveles que en México o que en

Colombia hace más de una década.

Al respecto, Toledo dijo que combatiría al narcotráfico entablando políticas junto a los países consumidores de drogas. “Mientras exista demanda va a existir oferta”, señaló. Asimismo, Toledo se pronunció sobre polémicos temas como el aborto y la unión civil entre homosexuales, que han sido blanco de críticas de la Iglesia Católica y en los que sus más cercanos competidores, el ex alcalde de Lima Luis Castañeda y la legisladora Keiko Fujimori, han evitado profundizar.

“El aborto es un tema que hay que dejarlo a la libertad de las personas, nadie puede permitir que un ser humano nazca en circunstancias forzadas”, afirmó el ex mandatario.

“Los individuos tienen derecho a optar y con todo respeto, la Iglesia no puede intervenir”, agregó. Toledo encabeza los sondeos electorales con un 27 por ciento de las preferencias, según la última encuesta de Ipsos Apoyo; seguido de Keiko Fujimori, hija del ex presidente Alberto Fujimori, con un 22 por ciento; y Castañeda con un 19 por ciento. □

Venezuela: suben a 37 los casos de cólera

CARACAS (AP) - A 37 se elevó la cifra de contagiados del virus del cólera en el país, que resultaron infectados durante un viaje a República Dominicana para participar en la celebración de una boda. La ministra de Salud, Eugenia Sader, declaró el jueves que “todos los cultivos nos dieron positivos, ya en Venezuela hay 37 (casos)”.

Las autoridades reportaron en la víspera que en Caracas habían 21 adultos contaminados con cólera, y que otros 12 venezolanos, que también tenía el virus, permanecían hospitalizados en República Dominicana.

Sader indicó que “todos los casos que tenemos en estos momentos fueron producto de contaminación fuera de Venezuela”, y que las autoridades se mantienen alertas para evitar la propagación del virus entre los centenares de

invitados venezolanos que acudieron a la fiesta en la isla caribeña.

“Nuestro objetivo es que estas 452 personas (invitadas a la boda) reciban el tratamiento”, señaló.

Las autoridades dominicanas informaron el jueves desde Santo Domingo que los invitados se contaminaron al comer langosta en la celebración de una boda que se realizó el 22 de enero, en el lujoso complejo residencial de Casa de Campo en República Dominicana. El ministro de Salud de República Dominicana, Bautista Rojas, detalló que hasta la mañana del jueves, esa institución sólo había registrado 14 personas que se contagiaron en la boda, dos de ellos empresarios dominicanos y 12 venezolanos. □

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